

The Olympic Games only lasts 16 days, but the effect on real estate markets in host cities are felt long after the final gold medals are awarded.

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The Argentina Tango Troupe "Passionate Tango" lit up Beijing's Tianqiao Theatre Stage July 20 and 21.

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A Tibetan's Musical Pilgrimage to Beijing: Taxi sings popular songs at a small pub.

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## Personal Donations to Olympic Fund Discouraged

By Zhang Ran

"Private citizens are discouraged from making donations to the Olympic fund," said Liu Jingmin, Deputy Mayor of Beijing and Administrative Deputy Chairman of Beijing Olympics Bidding Committee.

Liu stated in an interview on July 22 that during the bidding period, thousands of people offered donations and all were declined. "We are grateful for the warm support. However, we think that everyone's money would be put to better use in improving his or her own living conditions. The money could be used to buy new exercise sneakers instead. This would be the best way to support Beijing's bid."

After the International Olympic Committee's decision, thousands more expressed their intent to donate to the Beijing Olympic fund.

"The Organizing Committee of the 29th Olympiad has not yet been established," said Liu, "and we really want to encourage everyone to spend money improving their own lives and participate in sports activities. Personal donations, in either money or goods, are neither welcomed nor encouraged."

The percentage of Beijing's annual growth has consistently been in double digits since 1998. The past 5 years has seen the average municipal income increase of more than 20%, and in the first six months of this year Beijing's GDP was 123.37 billion yuan, an 11% increase over last year. Business profits have been spurred on by the winning bid to 21.71 billion yuan, a 29.1% increase.

According to Liu, this positive trend will continue. "We are in a good position to make the 2008 Olympiad one of the most outstanding events in Olympic history."

## Olympic Lottery Opens Next Month

Tickets soon to be available from local Sports Lottery vendors



A young man buys a sports lottery ticket at a booth.

Photo by Chen Shuyi

By Liu Jianwu / Zhang Ran

A portion of the budget for the Olympic Games will be raised through a lottery. Guidelines for running these new Olympic lotteries were publicized on July 19 by the Sports Lotteries Management Centre of the National Sports Bureau.

The document issued by the Ministry of Finance states that the Olympic Lottery, a small component of the overall fund raising activity for the 2008 Olympic Games will be implemented in the present sports lottery system. Channels for issuing tickets, fund allocation schemes, sales modes, and management will all follow the current lottery system.

A representative of the National Sports Lotteries Centre explains that the Olympic Lottery will be integrated into the present system and there will be no fundamental difference between playing the Olympic Sports Lottery and other sports lotteries that are available today.

Olympic lottery tickets will be available starting August 1st at all Lottery ticket sales points. Another 2 additional lotteries, the Open-at-the-games lottery and the Olympic Memorial Ticket are slated to begin within this year and tickets for those lotteries will also be available from local lottery ticket vendors.

## Drafting China's Entry into WTO

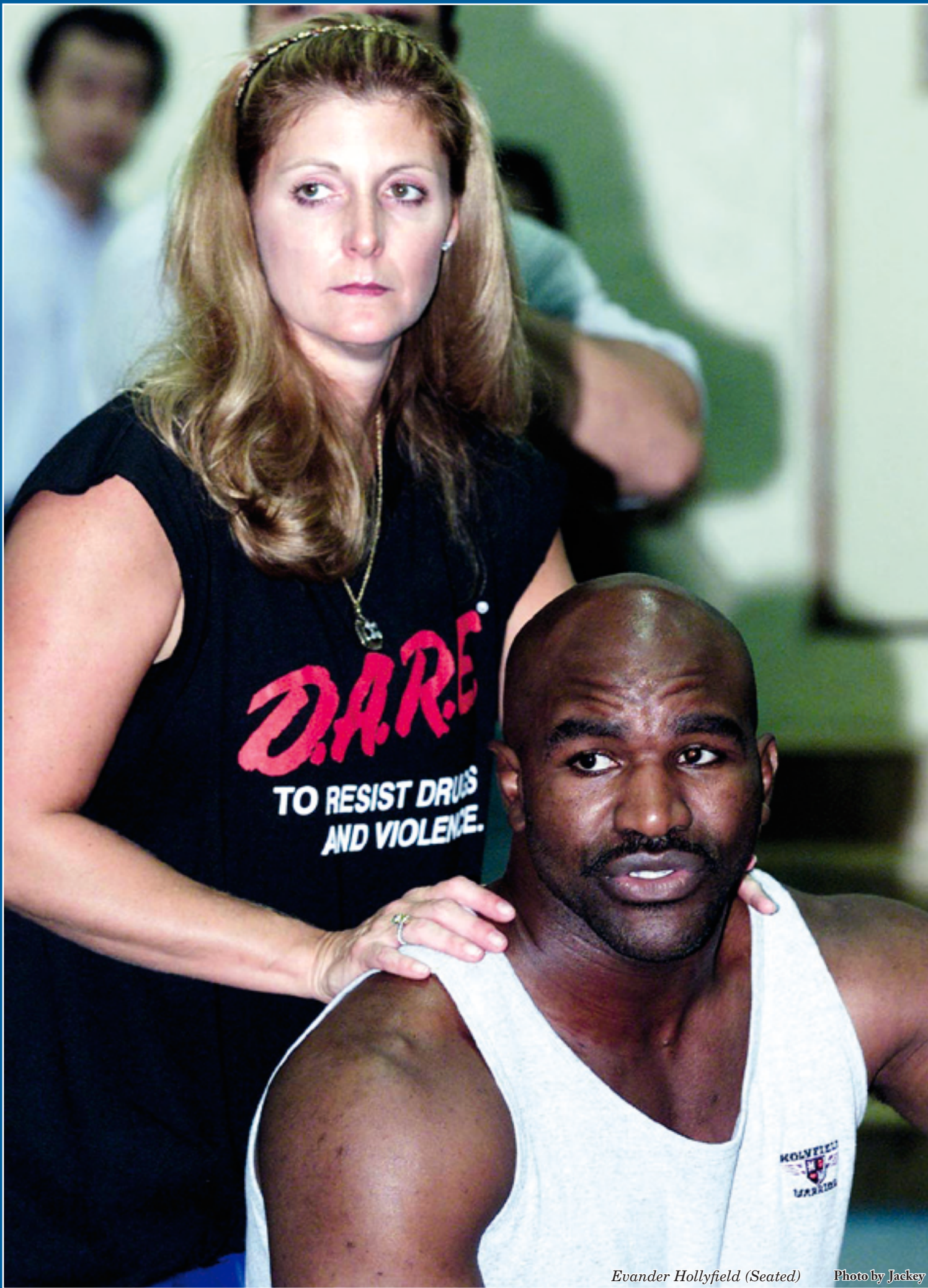
China's Working Committee is honing in on final approvals

By Liang Yeqian / Wang Yanyan

July 20 marked the end of the 17th session of the Working Committee on China's entry into WTO. Starting on the 16th of July until today, the Working Committee drafted legal documents that set up protocols and worked out details for China's entry to the WTO. Existing WTO members will now return with the documents to their own countries' governmental bodies for ratification.

Long Yongtu, Head negotiator of China's entry into the WTO and chief negotiator of MFTEC (Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation), reconfirmed during a telephone interview that China will join the World Trade Organization, and relevant departments involved should speed up preparation.

According to Long Yongtu the Chinese Working Committee has completed the appropriate legal documents and will hold their final session on September 10. Both legislatures of WTO and China will then spend one to two months ratifying the documents. When the documents receive approval, all the pieces will be in place for China to join the WTO at the 4th ministerial meeting in mid-November in Doha, Qatar. All substantial negotiations have been completed at this point except for bilateral talks with Mexico. The Mexican Foreign Trade Minister will visit Beijing on July 26. Although the meeting is merely a formality and will not affect the WTO entry, the Chinese are looking forward to working with the Mexicans to establish a strong relationship between the two countries.



Evander Holyfield (Seated)

Photo by Jackey

# Hollyfield Vs. Ruiz

## Battling in Beijing

By Zhang Guihan / Chu Peng / Zhao Pu



Don King

Photo by Iceberg

WBA World Heavy Weight boxer John Ruiz arrived in Beijing on 23th July accompanied by Don King. King was in Beijing when the result of the Olympic bid was announced. Ruiz arrives in China a month after his challenger, Evander Holyfield. Although officials are concerned with the speed in which Ruiz can acclimatize to Chinese food and facilities, Ruiz himself says that he travels all over the world for matches. New environments are not really a problem for him and he can maintain his training condition wherever he is.

Now that both the heavyweight fig-

ures have arrived in Beijing, Great Wall International Sports (GWIS), this match's sponsor, will be intensifying their advertising and promotion campaign.

Great Wall International Sports representatives says that ticket sales, fund raising and advertising are all going very well. Cheng Qi, Ticket Sales Manager says that as of yesterday, the 490 distinguished tickets priced at 1000 USD has been sold out. Cheng predicted that the remaining tickets, which fall into 7 different pricing categories, would probably also sell out by the time of the fight. The broadcast rights between Great Wall International Sports and CCTV 5 have been finalized at the price of 400,000 USD.



John Ruiz

Photo by Iceberg



# Loans Increase to 17.1 Billion Yuan

## “Carefree Loans” Show Economic Confidence

By Lu Chun / Zhang Xueyuan / Zhao Pu

According to a Beijing Bureau of Statistics report released on 20th July, loan amounts to Beijing financial organizations have increased to RMB 54.62 bil-

lion yuan since the beginning of this year. Residential loans account for 33.2% of new bank loans and cite the largest volume increase of 17.15 billion yuan. Bank loans have increased to 55.55 billion yuan making up 8.9% of the total bank loan



Most people buy houses with loans.  
Photo by Chen Shuyi

volume.

Housing loans comprise a majority of loans made to private citizens. In the first half of this year, real estate investments accounted for 50% of the total social investment, making it the highest ever in 10 years. The area mass for commercial apartments sales reached 2.36 million square meters with sales total of 10.41 billion yuan. The sales volume from individual res-

idents in all categories of consumer spending was up 50% with the total ringing in at 10.55 billion yuan. In addition to housing consumption, electric appliance, education, mobile communication and travel are also on the rise in Beijing.

According to analysts, the increase of the residents' consumption loan ratio demonstrates full consumer confidence in the economy.

## China Receives More Tourists

More than 42.8 million people have traveled to China during the first six months of this year. This figure is up 6.87% compared with the same period last year.

The China Daily reported Tuesday that foreign exchange income from tourism reached 8.5 billion USD, an increase of 10.68%.

The number of tourists from the Macao Special Administrative Region increased by 34.2% from last year, according to statistics released by the National Tourism Administration.

Most of these tourists destination was Zhuhai, a neighboring city of Macao for shopping and dining. This special economic zone in south China's Guangdong Province has a 700 million USD tourism industry.

1.7 million tourists from Taiwan Province visited the mainland. This is up 15.9% over the same time period during 2000.

In the first six months of this year, the number of tourists from two of China's top tourist source countries, Thailand and the Republic of Korea, increased by 28.8% and 19% respectively. (Xinhua)

## Relocation of Industrial Enterprises to be Accelerated

More industrial enterprises will be relocated out of urban areas of Beijing by 2005 in an attempt to improve the environment for the 2008 Olympic Games, a senior official said Monday.

Liu Haiyan, Vice-Mayor of Beijing, said the city government will amend the original 10th Five-Year Plan (2001-2005) for the urban industrial enterprises layout.

The relocation is expected to be completed before the 2008 Olympic Games. (Xinhua)

## Administrative Approvals Streamlined Over the Internet

By Tan Weiping / Wang Yanyan

Local authorities reported that hundred of people visited the “Capital Window” web site at [www.beijing.gov.cn](http://www.beijing.gov.cn) <<http://www.beijing.gov.cn>> in an effort to streamline the approval process of over 850 administrative items. Within two days, many citizens participated in the online vote with a few of them even offering comments and suggestions. Hits to the Beijing Planning Commission (BPC) site were high with an additional eight citizens expressing their valuable opinions on the Licensing of Taxi Companies by the Beijing Communications Bureau.

In an effort to reduce administrative overhead by 41.7%, Beijing authority recently decided to review the 850 items. 30% of these items are economic affairs related. Authorities are trying to use the Internet to instantiate a program of “Public Reform” by seeking public opinions, addressing business issues and by keeping citizens up to date all via the internet.



# Traffic Flow Eases as 4th Ring Road Opens

By Shan Jinliang

Average speeds on the 2nd and 3rd Ring Roads during rush hour traffic increased by 5 to 10 kilometers per hour. Traffic jams within 3rd Ring Road decreased by 12.5% as the 4th ring road that circumvents the city opened.

According to the traffic flow checking systems of the Traffic Administrative Bureau, average running speeds on the 2nd and 3rd Ring Roads have improved. During the month of June, 1,835 traffic jams within 3rd Ring Road were reported, while last month after the opening of the 4th ring road the rate decreased by 12.5%.

114,633 vehicles use the 2nd Ring Road daily driving at an average car speed of 65.5 km/h. With the opening of the 4th Ring Road average number of vehicles on the 2nd Ring Road decreased 2.65% per day, and the average car speed in the city has increased 6.1 km/h. Currently, the time for an average car to circle the 2nd Ring Road during pre-rush hours is 39 minutes at a speed of 51km/h.

The opening of the 4th Ring Road has reduced this time by 4 minutes and has increased the average speed by 5km/h.

The vehicular flow during an average day on the 3rd Ring Road is around 105,620 vehicles with average car speeds of 59. 6km/h. This figure increased 7.43% after the 4th Ring Road opened to traffic. The average car speed across the city has now been raised by 2.5km/h. It now takes 48 minutes in pre-rush hour traffic at speeds of 60 km/h to make one round of the 3rd Ring Road. This figure is 3 minutes less than before the opening of the 4th Ring Road. Average speeds around the city have increased 4km/h with the average car speed on the main thoroughfares of the 2nd and 3rd Ring Roads now exceeding 40 km/h.

Monitors of vehicular flow on a section of the 4th Ring road, show the capacity of the thoroughfare to be 1,100 vehicles at certain points. This figure approaches the predicted flow during peak hours on the expressway. 230,000 vehicles drove onto the new 4th Ring Road merely 24 hours

after it opened to full traffic. Since the opening, traffic on the West 3rd Ring Road has dropped 20%, and the average car speed is 38km/h - an increase of 25%. The 4th Ring Road greatly alleviates the pressure on traffic in the city proper. Concurrent renovation projects of the city internal road infrastructure, such as Guanga'an Dajie, Xueyuan Lu, Xiwai Dajie, also have been or are soon to be completed.

Traffic lights at many intersections are slated for improvement making them more convenient and safer for pedestrians.

The Traffic Administrative Bureau reports that 150 standardized traffic lights have been increased to 200. 200 hutongs that measure more than 5 meters wide within the 3rd Ring Road, will be altered to accommodate both parked and moving vehicles. Traffic patrol units will increase to 350 from 150 and 100 more zebra crosswalks will be established. 90% of roads will be painted with traffic lines to ensure smoother transportation when traveling inside the city proper.

## Customs House Helps Boost Competition

High-tech industries will benefit from “Green Passageway” service

By Ma Ning / Shang Xinqing Tao Yong / Shan Jinliang

Some customs officials will soon travel to production areas and transportation docks to make customs inspections. This initiative is part of the “Green Passageway” service started by the Beijing Customs Department for large-scale high-tech enterprises within city limits. The General Customs Administration and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation have issued a joint publication of ten measures that would facilitate easier customs processing for large-scale high-tech enterprises.

This series of new policies are designed to improve efficiency both within the Customs House and in its dealings with high-tech enterprises. Some of the new policies include: the possibility of advance price inspection, pre-shipment statement inspection and the opening of a special passage for statement inspection. Customs clearance policies have now expanded to include a one-time customs clearance of statement inspection, a single-pass goods examination and a single-pass examination on transit goods.

This Beijing Customs Service will support the development of Zhongguancun Science & Technology Park, Beijing Economic & Technological Development Zone and Tianzhu Export & Processing Zone. According to Tang Qilin, Deputy Director General of Beijing Customs, Beijing's “New Economy Enterprises” and IT industries in particular have seen a boom in the last few years. The percentage of desired customs clearance services have been increasing steadily each year.

The total import and export sum of Beijing's processing trading in 2000 reached \$4.08 billion. Mobile phones, integrated circuits, batteries and other high-tech products make up 31.4% of the total sum of all the customs clearance goods. The reported sum total of the top 5 listed high-tech enterprises, Nokia, Ericsson, Orient Top Victory, Mitsubishi Stone and National, covers over 60% of all customs goods. With this large volume, it is imperative that the customs procedures are concise and efficient.

Tang said that in general, the production cycles for high-tech products are only 7 to 10 days. There is a risk that goods may be rejected if timely delivery cannot occur. Most international companies have offices in several countries, and the efficiency of customs clearance is a major advantage when they choose their domestic partners. The demand for high customs standards for a competitive edge in this environment is imperative. Currently, companies can declare customs in the morning and be cleared by the afternoon. Customs declarations made in the afternoon can be cleared the next working day.

# Stepping Up Urban Greening Regulations

By Fan Hongwei / Zhao Pu

In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Construction projected a “green” ratio of 30% to be implemented across the nation by 2005. Relevant authorities expressed a desire to maintain a 35% forest coverage rate for the country while establishing an average per capita public green land that exceeds 8 square meters. In order to have the legal backing to implement the plan, departments under the Ministry of Construction are currently speeding up the process of establishing details for the “Green Line” regulation system and will release these guidelines soon.

A Ministry spokesperson explained that the “Green Line” is a legal directive specifically designed to protect and control various green lands in the city including public spaces, residential areas and plots of land associated with work units. This document will establish the “Controlling Line” and “Guarantee Line” for the city's reforestation plan. Appropriate departments in the Ministry of Construction are now formulating regulations that map out the penalties to be imposed on violators.

The “Green Line” regulations define the amount of green land required in an overall city plan and stipulate that its placement must be within city limits. This ensures that the area is not parceled out to other industries.

“Green Line” regulations state that each piece of green land should be clearly defined in the city planning process and cannot be allotted to business investment, construction or any other use other than as green public land. The Ministry plans to prosecute any offending parties.

Shanghai is the first to implement “Green Line” regulations. The approval of the Shanghai Forestation Regulation last November by the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress came with following statement, “Shanghai is adopting “Green Line” regulations for the construction of green lands which include planned parks; groomed parks;



City greenery

Photo by Chen Shuyi

a green belt that surrounds the city and the green lands running along major roads, railways, highways, river banks, lakes and sea shores. Construction or expansion of building structures located within these areas is forbidden.



## Eastern Airlines Starts Merging

**Latest news: how Yunnan Airlines made it to Eastern**

By Jason Young

China Eastern Airlines Group (CEA) has begun its merger with China Northwest and Yunnan Airlines by signing business cooperative accords, airline officials and state media said last Friday.

China's second biggest carrier, CEA had agreed to coordinate revenue flows and ticket prices on overlapping routes and frequent flyer programs, and to cooperate on technological support with the two smaller airlines, they said.

"These are the first substantial steps made by the three carriers since the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) approved the merger plans," CEA spokesman Sun Guoping said.

In April, the CAAC announced plans to consolidate the 10 carriers under its direct control into three giant groups -- China Southern Airlines (CSA), CEA and unlisted flag carrier Air China.

CEA has already taken over Great Wall Airlines. After its merger with China Northwest and Yunnan Airlines, the group will have 118 aircraft, 437 routes and \$5.7 billion in assets, the CAAC said.

The merger will help CEA expand operations in southwestern China. Because Yunnan Airlines is a well-managed company in China, CSA was keen to merge with it. CSA bought Zhongyuan Airlines last year and was expected to merge with China Northern Airlines and Urumqi-based Xinjiang Airlines Co. CSA had earlier held talks to merge with Yunnan Airlines, according to Su Liang, a spokesman at CSA. Finally CEA won the bid for Yunnan Airlines. Since CEA got an order from CAAC to merge with Northwest Airlines and Great Wall Airlines, two companies incurring losses, they hope with Yunnan airlines, they can maintain their position in between CSA and Air China. So the plea for holding Yunnan Airlines is finally realized.

## KFC All in a Mash

**Domestic potatoes failed to step in**

By Yang Xiao

First at Shanghai, then Beijing, KFC ran out of imported mashed potatoes around the whole nation. July 20, all 65 KFC outlets in Shanghai did not serve "mashed potatoes" because of a lack of supply. A large majority of Beijing's outlets persuaded customers to buy a meal deal rather than mashed potatoes. It is the first time that KFC runs out of the popular product since it opened its first outlet in China 16 years ago. The new stock will arrive in about one or two months, said the company spokesman.

Since KFC has run out of mashed potatoes, why do Chinese producers not step in to fill the gap? One source estimated that the income of one outlet just from mashed potatoes amounts to about 700,000 yuan per year. Now KFC has 450 outlets around China. Such a market should not be underestimated. But KFC is not satisfied with the idea of using Chinese producers. All KFC's potato raw materials are from Idaho, USA, and they think Chinese potatoes do not meet their standards. Potatoes produced in China contain a lot of water and the sugar content is either higher or lower than the standard.

In fact KFC is always emphasizing localization: all their chicken supply comes from inside China. If just one potato-manufacturing company should have improved production techniques and evolved a type of potato to attract orders from KFC, the potato crisis could have been avoided.

Wang Shi



Photo by Chen Shuyi

By Yang Xiao

For every housing developer in Beijing, July 13 is a memorable and profitable day. When Beijing won the Olympic Bid, house prices in the north of Beijing rose sharply. Fenglin Luzhou, a real estate area near the Olympic village, rose 33.3% from about 6000 to 8000 yuan per square meter. At Beiyuan Jiayuan near the village, all 100 residual houses were sold out within 3 days. The estate agent Jia Mou smiled, "next week the price will climb up for sure."

While the businessmen are cheering up, experts think the bubble in the property sector is getting bigger and bigger. A real estate expert Han Deqing believes that the Olympic Games will in-

# Blowing the Housing Bubble



Athlete apartments near the planned stadium will be sold to citizens. Prices will certainly drop

crease property sales in 7 years. Earning money from increments over 8 years is a long process. And after the Games, all athlete apartments will be sold to citizens according to Mayor Liuqi's promise. Prices will certainly drop.

The price of Beijing's real estate is the highest in the country. An average Beijinger will spend a total of 23 years to buy a house, compared with only 9.5 years in Shanghai, 10.5 years in Shenzhen and 11 years in

Guangzhou.

Wang Shi, Vanke president and the real estate billionaire who took part in the IOC Moscow session thinks the price surging caused by Beijing winning the bid will only last a short time.

"Land beyond the 3rd ring road is much cheaper than land inside it, and the Olympic Village is set outside the 4th ring road. When there are more properties, prices in other areas will gradually fall."

## RedBull Denies Harmful Effects



RedBull China GM Cha Feng

Photo by Cui Hao

By Jason Young

According to ABC news, RedBull Energy Drink was banned by the Swedish Government. On July 17, three Swedes were found dead after drinking several cans of RedBull. Then Malaysia announced it was prohibiting sales of the popular drink. RedBull also faces difficulties in China. A lot of customers in Chengdu expressed their concerns surrounding the drink.

As a response, RedBull China Co. held a media conference at Beijing this Tuesday. It denies the rumor of harmful effects to the body.

RedBull China GM Cha Feng explains, "In order to meet Chinese standards, the ingredients in Chinese RedBull are a little different from the Swedish one. So far the reason for the Swedish deaths is not certain and we have not received any information regarding a ban on RedBull in China. We promise it does no harm to the body at anytime in any place." Some journalists suspect RedBull's Caffeine levels are higher than standard beverages. Cha says, "They are the same as Coke's."

RedBull is an energy drink popular throughout the world. Cha describes its functions as revitalizing the body and mind because RedBull replaces important body substances, especially after increased exertion. RedBull was invented in the early 1980s. The annual sales are over 1 billion cans. In 1997, RedBull was introduced to China.

## Wenzhou Shoes to Change Image

By Zhang Ran

"Made-in-Wenzhou", a campaign headed by the entrepreneurs of five leading conglomerates of the shoe-making industry this Monday, aims at building for Wenzhou an image of China's City of Shoes, rather than one of fakes or inferiors.

With more than 4000 shoe-makers, Wenzhou reached an annual output of 28.3 billion yuan last year. In the clothing industry, 10 makers sell billions of yuan with 39 brands meeting the quality standards of the national best. However, 90% of clothing produced avoids the "made-in-Wenzhou" brands by resorting to well-renowned production zones, such as France, Italy, Guangzhou, and Shanghai.

One source estimates that the Wulinmen Square incident of more than 10 years ago put shame on Wenzhou. Batches of fake products originating from Wenzhou were burned publicly in Hangzhou. At that time everyone despised Wenzhou products. Now with great improvements on quality, the president of Wenzhou Aokang Co. has taken his revenge by burning fake products of his own brands. Yet most enterprises with improved quality still suffer from Wenzhou's former bad reputation.

Fortunately, some overseas enterprises, namely, Kangnai Co. of France, opened outlets highlighting Wenzhou's brands from the

start. Encouraged, 12 entrepreneurs recently put pen to paper to promote "Made-in-Wenzhou" at the local Clothing Chamber of Commerce. "Why should we pave the way for our competitors?" was their reply to the Fifteen-Year Period focusing on developing the clothing industry of 10 cities, including Wenzhou.

Featuring 70 genuine leather enterprises first, the campaign of "Made-in-Wenzhou" will be implemented step by step as the small-sized enterprises are ready to follow suit even with initial profit losses. At the dawn of China's entry to WTO, borrowing others' brands will serve as the stepping stone to put Wenzhou's own brands in the spotlight.



Bejingners still do not trust the shoes from Wenzhou

Photo by Jackey

## Shi Yuzhu: I promise to repay the debt by any means



*This Wednesday ST Qingdao China-made Goods Co. closed up 0.61 yuan at 23.8 yuan, nearly doubling 13.82 yuan of Feb. 12, even though the company has been reporting a loss over the same period*



Photo by Zhuang Jian

By Jason Young

On the road to success: fair means or foul? Shi Yuzhu chooses the former route.

Shi is keeping his promise to pay back a debt of roughly 150 million yuan (\$18.12 million) at the end of this year. The money is likely to come from the capital market. On July 17, Shanghai A share market listed company ST Qingdao China-made Goods Co. (special treatment, usually referring to those with losses incurred by enterprises in their operations) Qingdao China-made Goods Co. announced that it would reorganize with Shanghai Huaxin Investment Co. Huaxin is Jiantie's parent company. Qingdao Merchant, the largest shareholder in ST Qingdao China-made Goods Co. agreed to shift 228.1 million shares to Huaxin, which owns a 90% stake of Shi Yuzhu's Jiantie. In other words, Shi has the means to get money from the stock market. And the promise he made will be fulfilled in time.

Shi Yuzhu, president of the

Zhuhai Giant Group, which has not been doing so well lately, dominated newspaper headlines earlier this year after announcing that he would start paying back his debts. He owes private buyers who bought into the now stalled Giant Tower project six years ago. Shi has a remarkable history.

Beginning as a software developer, Shi set up Giant Company in Zhuhai in South China's Guangdong Province in 1991, two years after he graduated with a degree in computers.

The company grew with an astonishing speed and became China's second largest non-State high-tech enterprise in 1993.

But Shi's ambitious plan to build the 70-storey Giant Tower, predicted to be the highest building in China at the time, eventually pushed the company to the edge of bankruptcy.

The project was stopped because of the Giant Group's fiscal crisis in 1995, leaving hundreds of buyers in Guangdong and Hong Kong failing to recoup their money. Despite a private debt of 150

million yuan (\$18.12 million), Shi avoided declaring his group bankrupt and promised to repay all the money.

He started making good his promise after earning back his fortune in the pharmaceutical industry within just one year. Shi set up a company in Shanghai and Zhejiang named Jiantie in 2000. The company produces a kind of medicine named "Platina of Brian" and made 10 million net profits by the end of 2000.

Although some question Shi's motives, saying his efforts are aimed at getting publicity for his new business, his miraculous comeback after suffering such a stunning defeat is respectable. If he lets the company go bankrupt, the debt will be waived. "Anyone that is morally burdened by debts cannot go on to bigger things," he was quoted as saying, explaining why he finally started repaying his debts.

Now is time for every businessperson to contemplate such a question - which is the best way to success, fair means or foul?



# Olympics to Bring 2,000,000 Jobs to Beijing

By Yu Lixian

It is reported that construction for the Olympics will provide no less than 300,000 jobs annually for Beijing over the following seven years. A total of 2,000,000 jobs will be created over 8 years.

According to Beijing Youth Daily, empirical data of the Seoul Olympic

Games provided 160,000 occupations for Seoul's service industry, 50,000 for the manufacturing industry, 80,000 for the architectural industry, arriving at a total of 300,000 jobs. The scale of the 2008 Olympic Games will no less than that of Seoul.

In addition, statistics specialists predict that if the employment rate increases by 1% annually, up to 400,000

jobs will be filled by urban inhabitants in the year 2008 alone. Hosting the Olympic Games will create enough jobs to keep the rate of unemployment below critical levels.

The jobs created will mainly be in architecture, real estate, environmental protection, electronics and information, culture, tourism, and business.



Photo by Zhuang Jian

## MOFTEC: FIEs to Handle More Imports-Exports

By Zhao Hongyi

To meet the criteria of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which China plans to enter by the end of this year, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) released a circular aiming at expanding the import-export business scope limited at present to foreign invested enterprises (FIEs).

The relaxing of control entails allowing FIEs to expand product categories of their imports and exports. These FIEs will be allowed to purchase and export non-quota permitted and non-monopolized merchandise, and will have the right to attend export-quota bidding of their own products.

Some specific pre-conditions are also set for these FIEs, including an annual export worth over US\$ 10 million, and professional personnel engaging in international trade, having no record of law breaking or violation of regulations in taxation, foreign exchange, and import and export for two years in succession.

Foreign-funded research and development units are also entitled to import and sell a few hi-tech products manufactured by their parent companies.

## Foreign Direct Investment in China Soars

By Zhao Hongyi

China saw an accelerating influx of foreign direct investment (FDI) during the first half of this year, totaling 20.69 billion U.S. dollars.

The figure represents an increase of 20.5 percent over the same period of last year, Ye Zhen, spokesman of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), said at a press conference held by the Information Office of the State council Tuesday last week.

Ye said the Chinese government approved 11,973 new projects with foreign investment during the period between January and June, a year-on-year increase of 18.5 percent.

According to the NBS, the average scale of the new foreign-funded projects is 400,000 U.S. dollars larger than that of last year.

Meanwhile, foreign-funded enterprises in the coastal areas of the country have channeled the majority of their additional investments to such areas as telecommunications and high-tech products.

The NBS statistics shows that the contract value of FDI reached US\$ 33.4 billion in the first half of the year, up 38.2 percent from the same period last year.

"These figures clearly indicate that a new round of foreign investment in China will begin soon," Ye said.

## Volkswagen to Invest 12 Billion Yuan in China



Photo by Zhuang Jian

By Yu Lixian

The global investment of Volkswagen Auto Group will amount to some US\$ 27.5 billion in the following five years. China is still the key of investment in the Asian-Pacific area.

In the following five years, 59% of Volkswagen's total investment will be made in Germany. 2/3 of the total investment will be used for products, while the rest will be invested in global manufacturers or other parts of the Volkswagen Auto Group. 12 billion yuan will be invested in China.

Dr. Buechelhofer, marketing director and president of Asian-Pacific affairs of Volkswagen Auto Group, has recently revealed that the Asian market was predicted to keep rising, and return to its peak before the Asian financial crisis of 1997. China will continue playing a key role in this area. The sales goal in China for the following five years is 450,000 automobiles.

It is reported that when China enters the WTO, Volkswagen Auto Group will open up new models to satisfy the needs of Chinese customers, thus to enhance the competitive advantages of their products in the Chinese market. FAW-Volkswagen in Changchun will open up a middle range car, Bora, in August this year. Shanghai Volkswagen Auto Co. Ltd. will bring out a new model of compact Polo at the end of this year. At the same time, Volkswagen Auto Group is progressively bringing Chinese chain production agents into its global fittings purchasing system. Last year, the car sales volume of Volkswagen Auto Group in China accounted for 54% of the Chinese car market.

## China's Advertising Scale Ranks First in Asian-Pacific

By Yu Lixian

ACNielsen's latest investigation revealed that the advertising expenditure of China's mainland, with the scale of 86.1 billion yuan last year, ranked first among the 12 Asian-Pacific markets investigated. South Korea and Hong Kong came second and third respectively.

Over the first quarter of this year, the advertising expenditure of China's mainland reached 20 billion yuan, with an increase of 21% on that of last spring. Television advertisement is the main vehicle for marketing their products. Health-care products are the hottest in advertising markets.

In the 86.1 billion yuan from advertising revenues, newspapers took a portion of 14.647 billion yuan. In the first fifty of the newspapers, each exceeded 0.1 billion in its advertisement revenues, and had a total 7 billion yuan of annual advertisement revenues. This accounted for more than half of the total advertisement revenues of the 2000-odd newspapers.



With China's mass media experiencing a strong growth, paper advertising is seeing a dramatic soaring.

Photo by Zhuang Jian

### Beijing, Guangdong and Shanghai Top Three

Among the first fifty newspapers, nine were in Beijing, including five national and four local ones. Second to Beijing, Guangdong had seven newspapers exceeding a revenue of 100 million yuan each. They were Guangzhou Daily, Yangcheng Wanbao, Shenzhen Special Zone Daily, Shenzhen Economic Daily, Securities Times, Southern Metropolis Daily and Nanfang Daily. Shanghai had five, which were Xinmin Evening News, Shanghai Securities News, Jiefang Daily, Wen Hui Bao and Shenjiang Service Guide.

### Five industries amounted to 60% of the advertisement

According to statistics, the first five industries, with the most newspaper advertisements, were medicine and health care, culture and education, recruitment and counsel service, real estate, the Internet, computers and communication. The combined advertising expenditure of these industries accounted for some 60% of all newspaper advertisement.

## Chinese venture capital investors ask for favorable environment for growth

*"You need to know what is really needed here before investing"*

By Zhao Hongyi

44 Chinese venture capital management institutions appealed recently for a better political, legal and cultural environment for the maturing of the venture capital industry in China. But experts pointed out: "You need to know what is really needed here before investing".

The fourth "2001 China Venture Capital Annual Meeting and Seminar" was held in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou province in Southwest China, on July 21-22. The 44 Chinese venture capital management institutions attending the meeting discussed topics ranging from the role of government in venture capital investment to administrative supports for venture capital.

According to reports released at the meeting, there are over 160 venture capital investment institutions currently in operation in China, with a total capital in hand over 21 billion yuan. 1800 projects have kicked off with investment from these capital.

Concerning the bottleneck of the development of venture capital in China, Mr. Zhang Jing'an, director general of the Torch Project Center, a government business incubation coordinator of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), promised that with the venture board coming out in the country's stock market, venture capitals will find a better way out. Meanwhile, both the government and national legislative body will create an administrative and legally favorable environment for the development of venture capitals in the country.

Ms. Liu Manhong, professor from the People's University and an expert in venture capital, pointed out that most local venture investors are quite successful in China, compared with their foreign counterparts. The critical point is that most foreign venture investors do not know exactly what China needs.

She emphasized that venture capital does not need to be invested in hi-tech industry, which is the usual concept in the west.

"In China, the critical point is creative ventures rather than hi-tech enterprises," said Ms. Liu. "Venture capitals should take care of those ventures derived from traditional industries and with creative manners, either in the technology applied or the management skills used. Only after knowing exactly what is needed here, can you have a larger hope for success."

"Do you know what the first venture capital invested project in Eastern Europe was? It was not a hi-tech project. It was a project with a creative management framework in the service industry. And they succeeded!" She repeated the true story several times at the meeting.

## "China in Your Eyes" Photography Contest

"Overseas Digest", a popular Chinese monthly digest magazine has prolonged the closing date of its sixth photographing contest of "China in Your Eyes" to the end of August 2001, in an effort to attract more participation and better quality products.

The targeted participants are foreigners and those with foreign citizenships. Eight themes are set for candidate products selection, including exchanges between China and overseas, Chinese enterprises, Chinese villages, Chinese sciences and education, foreign enterprises in China, city and environment protection, living in China and Chinese traditions, cultures and sceneries.

All photos should be submitted to the

organizing committee prior to August 31, 2001.

For more info, please contact:

Beijing

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# Early Birds Get the Bed in 2008

By Sun Ming

Beijing's success in bidding for the 2008 Olympics has created a hot demand for hotel beds in 2008.

Sources from several hotels say the ratio of foreigners to Chinese is about half-half.

The first booking was reportedly made by an American businessman. He called the Beijing Hotel just one minute after IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch announced the result.

In recent days, reservation enquiries for 2008 are so frequent that some hotels admit having been caught unprepared.

"It is quite without precedent in our hotel to make reservations seven years ahead of time, so all we can do now is to place them on the record", said a staff member from the reservation department of the Beijing Hotel.

Up to now, the Beijing Hotel has already received more than 100 reservations by phones.

At the Beijing International Hotel, a special group will be established to handle advanced reservations.

A few hotels, such as the Grand Hotel Beijing, are not taking similar bookings. An employee from the reservation department explained that perhaps the hotel would be used for official guests.

## Prep Classes for High School Students Seeking Second Chance



Anxious parents come to register their children.

Photo by Sun Ming

By Sun Ming

Official registration started promptly on July 23 when more than hundred students signed up for the Huiwen High School preparation program within two hours of the results of the college entrance exam being released nationwide.

10,000 students and 200 classes: do the math and you should have an idea on the demand for the preparation courses to train Chinese students for college entrance exams in Beijing this year. The numbers had been predicted by high school teachers in Haidian, Xicheng, Dongcheng districts, in charge of the courses.

There is a newly coined term for students in preparation courses for college entrance exams, that is the "Gaosi" students. The average high school student usually graduates after third year and goes on hoping to pass the difficult university entrance exam. These days, many people cram into preparation courses. They are called "fourth-graders", in Chinese, the "Gaosi" students.

Through the study in preparation courses, many "Gaosi" students can achieve their wishes. "One of my students achieved a score of 627 this year. With the high score, I'm sure that he will be able to enter his ideal university", said a teacher of Huiwen High School excitedly. According to teachers of another high school, attached to Beijing Normal University, among 400 "Gao-

si" students of their school, more than 70 have already been enrolled after the college entrance exam held this spring. Another 300 "Gaosi" students also achieved good results in the 'mock' exams held in May and June.

There are a number of reasons for the rapid increase in the number of "Gaosi" students this year.

One key reason is a change in entrance rules. Two years ago, if a student had already been admitted by a college, he or she would haven't the opportunity to take the next college entrance exam. But since last year it has been different. This is good news for the student who does not want to enter any institutions but the "Ivy Leagues of China", such as Beijing or Qinghua University. They would rather prepare another whole year to realize their goals. This is a major reason for the increase of "Gaosi" students.

Also, from this year on, examinees will not be restricted in terms of age and marital status. So even a 72-year old grandfather in his fifth marriage can get his chance. "It's a dream for me to get a bachelor's degree. I've already retired and I decided to take the college entrance exam next year", said a person nearly 30 years old. For many "old examinees", they eagerly want to take lessons and gain some direction in the preparation courses. They form a part of the "Gaosi" group.

As to the phenomenon of "Gaosi" students, some education experts said that trying again is a risky business for students who were already admitted to some colleges due to the uncertainty of achieving better or even equivalent scores a second time. Apart from this, numerous "Gaosi" students embody dangerous competition to this year's graduates. In general, students are discouraged from re-sitting exams if they have already been admitted to an institution.



Photo by Fan Jiwen

## Old Styles Revived for Modern Market

By Su Wei

Trish Young, a 16-year-old high school student from Minnesota U.S.A., is trying on her new traditional Chinese shirt at the Man Fulai Counter, Daxin Textile Shop in Chaone Street.

She is satisfied with the partly finished shirt. The Manager of Man Fulai, Lu Yilai, also the tailor, is making a few final adjustments for her.

Man Fulai, is a shop specializing in traditional Chinese clothing. It enjoys the fame of being an old and well-known family, designing and making Chinese clothing for seventy or eighty years. Lu is the descendant of an old family specializing in all kinds of Chinese style wardrobes, especially for women. Due to the attractive

prices and the high quality of the finished clothes, Man Fulai enjoys great popularity and has many regular customers.

Among the regular customers, there are a number of foreigners. Their first foreign customer was from the Swedish Embassy. When asked whether Lu was nervous making clothes for a foreigner for the first time, he said, "No. There is an old Chinese saying, which goes 'Boldness of execution stems from superb skill.' Our clothes are superb in quality and the prices are much lower compared with other shops offering a similar quality. What's more, the customers usually come to our shop for a fitting of the partly finished garment, after having selected the style and the initial fitting." Lu said some foreigners have special demands

regarding the style, while others are happy to listen to the tailor's suggestions. "The foreigners are interested in Chinese culture and Chinese style clothing. Once they are satisfied they will recommend their friends or relatives to come here for tailored clothes. I remembered after the Swedish customer came for the first time, a Swedish delegation followed, and at that time we made more than 20 articles of clothing for them."

About six months ago, Man Fulai introduced a new service, whereby Lu visits customers at their homes. "It is very convenient for the foreigners, for they can save time and it is also good for our business." Lu also mentioned that several months ago, the Daxin Textile Shop employed an interpreter, for the benefit of those custom-

ers who don't speak Chinese.

Lu is confident about the superiority of the design and manufacture of his garments. His technique, handed down by his family is a closely guarded secret.

Zhang Xuesong, an artist, has been a regular customer at Man Fulai for more than two years. "The price is a key factor, besides the high quality. I feel very comfortable when wearing Chinese style clothes. Lu is a n excellent tailor!"

It is true that the business for Man Fulai is booming and Lu seldom has any leisure time. On Lu's arm, is a tattoo of the Chinese character "Ren" (Tolerance). According to Lu, being a good tailor, skill in making clothes and a good temper are the key factors for success in winning more customers.

## Swallows Nest on Light Bulb

By Li Shouen

A pair of swallows have built their nest against a light bulb in a home in suburban Beijing and hatched a brood of swallow chicks in it. According to the woman who lives there, there are two swallow nests in the house, but this one is newly built this summer. The family were quite amazed when they saw the swallows building their nest against the light bulb. Although the nest appears to be very flimsy,

the swallows must feel confident about it, for they even hatched their chicks in it.

When asked whether they considered chasing them away, the woman replied, "Frankly there are minor troubles caused by these swallows, their droppings, for example. But this is no reason to chase them away. In fact, we even feel worried if they come back home late. And watching the parent swallows nursing and teaching their young, is quite fascinating. So they bring more fun than trouble to us."



The nest on the light bulb

Photo by Cao Boyuan

## More Trees for a Greener Beijing

By Sun Ming

"Trees, especially large ones, will play the leading role in landscape engineering in Beijing. Trees and their projection should cover up to 70% of the green areas found in the capital", proclaimed Wang Guangshou, Vice-Major of Beijing, after he inspected the green line of the

city on July 19.

Wang points out that Beijing is a city, which lacks water resources. Trees require lesser water than grass due to their more extensive root systems. Reducing noise and dust absorption are other advantages of planting large trees. They also offer protection from ultra-violet radiation, and can lower the temperature by 4 to 5 degrees

Centigrade, while grass makes a difference of only 2 to 3 degrees. In conclusion large trees contribute more to the environment than other plants.

Wang said, parking lots should yield to green lands if some contradictions appear. Cars only benefit individuals, whereas green areas are essential for the entire community.

## Ducks Destroyed after Failing Quarantine Test

By Ivy Zhang

On Tuesday, staff of the Beijing Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine destroyed a total of 2,800 "cheery valley" ducks imported from England.

The ducks were reportedly imported from England by the Xiang He Chia Tai Company, and arrived at Beijing airport last week.

While conducting a routine inspection, staff found that the British quarantine certificate

provided by the supplier did not cover the required "parrot fever" test result, which means the certificate failed to correspond with China's quarantine requirements. The supplier consequently agreed to have the ducks destroyed.



By Sun Ming

■ British financial journal *Banker* recently published the latest sequence of commercial banks in the world. According to first level capital, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China ranks seventh.

■ A hotline for itinerant workers was opened by the Communist Youth League on July 19th in Beijing. It offers free counselling in the areas of psychology, law, employment and more. This is the first hotline of its kind in the country.

■ With the opening of the forth ring road, the speed limit on the second and third ring roads will increase by five kilometers per hour, according to Beijing Public Security Bureau of the Traffic Administration.

■ The biggest multiple-hospital in Asia will be put into construction in north Beijing, according to the Beijing Bureau of Public Health. It is estimated that the investment of the hospital, with 3,000 hospital beds, will be about 400 to 700 million yuan.

■ Beijing Safari Park, located in Daxing district, will be open to tourists in early August. It contains 3,600 acres and 150 million yuan has been invested into it. More than 200 kinds of rare wild animals from around the world are collected there.



50,000 pirate CDs found in a small back street store were confiscated by local police on Tuesday in Haidian District. Police are requesting that anyone who finds a similar establishment, contact them on 84251190.

Photo by Yang Yonghui



# Cultural Difference Leads to Clash

## American Chinese shot dead by US Police

By Xiao Rong

The recent case of Cao Xianqing, a Chinese immigrant shot dead by the police in Michigan State, USA after protesting against his arrest on May 2 has become the number one issue in the Michigan Chinese community over the past two weeks. The main reason for Cao's arrest given by US Officials was supposedly molestation of his 8-year-old stepdaughter Elena.

Soon after the incident much biased coverage swamped media reactions in both the US and China. The following extract presents the news report of Michigan local press in the original English, entitled "Police off the hook in Portage shoot-out".

"The Kalamazoo County prosecutor says he won't charge two Portage police officers who killed a man in a shoot-out. Prosecutor James Gregart said the evidence indicates that Sgt. Jack Bogema and Officer Gregory Burke acted in self-defense after the man allegedly fired six shots from a 22-caliber handgun at Burke. Gregart said he made his decision after reviewing an investigative report prepared by the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department. The report, which recommended that the officers not be charged, detailed the May 2 shoot-out that left Xianqing Cao, 37, dead. Police said they went to the Chinese immigrant's Portage home to investigate allegations that he had sexually assaulted two underage girls. Investigators said Cao became agitated, produced the gun and fired at Burke before the officers returned fire and mortally wounded him. Burke suffered a leg wound and his protective vest stopped two other bullets."

Although Chinese reactions have been furious, Chinese media still made an effort to cover the whole story from a neutral standpoint, elaborating on detailed background



American Chinese set up web page for Cao's case

information. The following report is a summary of what was presented in many Chinese articles.

Cao and his wife Jane, also a Chinese who works in a pharmaceutical factory of Kalamazoo county, have four children. 12-year-old Margaret and 8-year-old Elena are children of Jane Cao and her former husband, while two-year-old Annabelle and nine-month-old Alexander are the couple's children.

As a homemaker, Cao looked after the four children attentively. Because of Elena's urethritis recently, Cao took the responsibility of applying medicine to the private parts of the little girl. However, this proved to be the cause of the later tragedy.

At a physiological class on May 2, when the teacher asked whether anyone had touched her private parts, Elena said that her father did. On learning this, the teacher informed local community personnel as well as the police. At about 4:15pm, the community personnel came to Cao's house to protect the four children from further abuse.

Because of the language barrier, Cao couldn't understand what had happened. He called Jane for help. Twenty minutes later, Jane returned home and learned from the personnel that her husband was charged of inappropriately touching her daughter. Cao got furious at the social workers for attempting to remove his beloved children. So they left.

A few minutes later, however, several police cars arrived and policemen broke through the sliding glass door of the kitchen. Jane was then upstairs comforting the four scared children. A policeman pointed the gun to her and forced her to the police car some distance away from her house. After sometime, she saw her husband being taken out of the house on a stretcher without any shirt or pants.

About 11:50pm, Jane Cao was told that her husband had died of a gunshot wound while resisting arrest.

The two elder daughters, Margaret and Elena, were under the guardianship of the Family Independence Agency (FIA) over the following two months. In addition, the FIA accused Jane Cao of neglect and abuse towards her children.

But Jane Cao never stopped her



The last happy photo together

protest and sought for help from the American Chinese. Local Chinese from Michigan even established a website (<http://cao.swift.net>) to announce the truth and the latest issues of the case. Cao Xianqing Peace Mission Fund has also been launched by Jane Cao. Under the pressure of public opinion and the effective strategy of Jane Cao's attorney, David Raaflaub, Margaret and Elena were finally returned to the mother on July 19. But there was still no charge against the police who shot Cao dead out of so-called self-defense.

**Jane Cao, wife of the late Cao Xianqing:**

Now the FIA (Family Independence Agency) is suing me to terminate my parental rights over my 4 children. I can only talk to them for two hours everyday under the surveillance of the FIA. To protect my children, did the FIA have to force their father to lose his life, to have our baby son never have his father to teach him to play ball and to show him how to be a man, and to

take away their mother, too? Is this child protection?

To my great disappointment, the children were not only manipulated and brainwashed by the FIA case worker but also by the foster parents.

**Mr. Huang Weiqiao, professor at Western Michigan University:**

I do not think Jane Cao committed any neglect and failed to protect her children. It is natural for a full-time worker to rely on and trust the other spouse or full-time homemaker to take care of her children. The only possible problem is that she probably should be more sensitive to what other outsiders might misunderstand if her husband applies medicine to his stepdaughter. Hence for that part she probably should be more careful and have done it herself. But how many of us would have thought that in the first place?

I agree that Chinese are more conservative regarding sex matters. But I don't think we are more lib-

eral when it comes to treating our children regarding sex (like having no problem with applying medicine to their private parts.) I think it's just that we have good intentions and we love our children without connecting our behavior with sex, whereas Americans may have greater sensitivity and concern about their individual privacy and rights.

So I think Chinese Americans need to be aware of the mainstream American way of thinking and doing things, and need to be careful not to inadvertently violate the laws of this country. This country is supposed to be a melting pot, however, so we should be proud of our Oriental heritage, as long as it does not violate the laws here.

**Kaman Lee (Overseas Chinese):**

In regards to the case of Cao Xianqing being shot to death by the cops, I think the cops were at fault. Although the cops were permitted by law to take the kids' custody from Mr. Cao, they replaced their patience in establishing good communication with the kids' guardian at the scene (who was Mr. Cao) with the use of a fatal weapon on the man. It is even possibly a result of a racist attitude belittling the rights of minorities in the first place.

**Man Charurat (Overseas Chinese):**

This is undoubtedly a clear violation of an individual's right. This is no justification to use such deadly force on a father whose sole purpose was to protect his children. The father-daughter relationship is culture-specific and must be taken into account when the alleged accusation was made. This is a sad example of a failure in the justice system.

**Katie Peng, executive chairperson of Cao Xianqing Peace Mission Fund:**

Although there are still doubtful points as to the disposition of the case, there was obvious improper conduct on the police and FIA side. Not knowing the truth, the FIA worker attempted to remove the children, certainly causing panic and anger in the parents. Besides, the language barrier and absence of interpreters may also lead to further misunderstandings.

### SOUND BITES

*I head to China confident that we can build a more stable, more constructive relationship with the Chinese. It is a nation that need not be seen as an enemy. I would expect the Chinese military to modernize and transform itself and to use some of its newfound wealth to do that. This is not shocking or surprising to me.*

US Secretary of State Colin Powell told reporters ahead of his first trip to Asia.

*Thanks for letting me know all the truth. For any country, compulsory education is the government's duty and China is no exception. Many problems still exist in terms of basic education in rural areas, compulsory education in particular. A focus of our work is to lessen farmers' burden while ensuring the required investment made on the compulsory education. Compulsory education is associated with the revitalization of Chinese nation and must not be weakened.*

Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji said during his 5-day inspection tour in east China's Anhui province in July, addressing the issues of delayed salary payment to local teachers and backward school housing.

*The upcoming 5 to 10 years will be a critical period for China to promote its opening-up to the outside world. China's investment environment will be further improved and China will continue to be one of the most attractive spots in the world to investors.*

Mr. Shi Guangsheng, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, said at the 2nd APEC Investment Fair held in Yantai, Shandong province in June.

*In the year 2000, four strategic investors namely BP, Shell, EXXON and ABB purchased SINOPEC's H shares with a total value of more than 1.5 billion U.S. dollars which accounts for a half of SINOPEC's H offerings. Why? Because they see SINOPEC has controlled China's major product petroleum market. If they want to gain access to China's market, they can do nothing but to work with SINOPEC.*

Mr. Li Junsheng, Chairman of Board of Directors of SINOPEC, said during an interview with Beijing Youth Daily, commenting on the challenges faced by SINOPEC following China's entry into WTO.

*Beijing will not let common people dip into their pockets for hosting the 2008 Olympic Games. Beijing's economy has maintained a two-digit growth since 1998. In the past five years, the fiscal revenue of the city increased by more than 20 percent annually and the first six months this year saw Beijing realize a GDP of 123.37 billion yuan, up 11 percent; the local fiscal revenue was 21.71 billion yuan, up 29.1 percent. This favorable tendency will be further intensified with the impact of the success in the Olympic Games bid. Beijing has absolute competence and strength to host an outstanding Olympic games.*

Liu Jingmin, vice mayor of Beijing and vice standing chairman of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Bid Committee.

(By Ivy Zhang)

## US Visas Increasingly Illusive?

By Li Shouen / Chen Ying

From May 15 to June 20, the refusal rate of the U.S. F-1 visa (student visa) for PRC citizens reached 41%, 18.5% higher than the same period last year, according to Beijing Youth Daily. This means almost one denial for every two applicants.

For the above topic Sina's chat room invited Xu Xiaoping, vice-president of New Oriental School, which is famous for GRE and TOEFL preparation classes, on July 25. As a professional adviser, Xu Xiaoping gave his view on the increasing refusal rate. He said there is no obvious difference between this year and last. Although the USA is providing slightly more visas this year than in the past, numbers of Chinese applicants are soaring way above the increase in visa availability. Thus an impression is created of many refusal incidents.

Mr. Charles Bennett, chief of the visa section at the American Embassy in Beijing, went to the Beijing Telegraph Building on June 2 to answer telephone queries from the public.

*"The first myth is that we don't issue visas to Chinese students. I can tell you categorically that this is not true. The proof is that last year alone we issued over 8,000 vi-*

*sas to Chinese students to go to study in American universities and colleges. I would also like to point out that according to statistics from various sources there are now more Chinese studying in the U.S. than students from any other country; over 50,000 Chinese students are currently enrolled in U.S. universities.*

*The second myth is that we have a quota for Chinese students-that we can only issue a certain number of student visas, either every day, or every month or every year. This is also false. We issue a student visa to any student we think is qualified. We have no quotas, and any-body can apply.*

*The third myth is that we have special law or policy regarding visas for Chinese students. This is also not true. There is one U.S. law concerning student visas - a law passed by Congress - and that law applies just as much to students from France, from Russia or from Mexico as to students from China.*

*The fourth myth is that how many visas we issue depends on the current state of the political relations between the U.S. and China. Issuance of visas depends on the law passed by Congress, making the decisions of visa officers completely outside the realm of politics."*



Clark T. Randt, Jr., the new U.S. Ambassador to China

By Chen Ying

Ambassador Clark T. Randt, Jr. arrived in Beijing on July 23, 2001. His family, including his wife Sarah of 22 years, two sons, one daughter, one dog and one cat, will arrive next month.

As Ambassador Randt has a Chinese name "Lei De", his three children also have their own Chinese names. He made his arrival statement in the United States Embassy in China that afternoon. His speech reflects his wisdom and experience as a "zhongguotong", meaning expert on China.

Ambassador Randt first visited Beijing in October 1974. He expressed his excitement and honor to be the latest Ambassador. He also talked about his opinion on Sino-American relations. At last he

## New US Ambassador Arrives in Town

pledged his best efforts to bring China and the United States closer together. Here follows his speech.

Ladies, gentlemen and friends. Thank you very much for coming today to welcome me back to Beijing -- this time as the United States Ambassador to China. I look forward to getting to know you better in the days and months ahead.

For me, this is the realization of a lifelong dream. I am personally thrilled to be here, humbled by the responsibility and deeply honored by President Bush's confidence in me. I only regret that my late father cannot be here to share this moment with me. In 1964, he encouraged me to study Chinese because he had the wisdom to foresee that China would be a great nation within my lifetime.

I met with President Bush last week and he asked me to convey his warm greetings to the Chinese people. He respects China and its talented people. He admires your rich history and culture and is looking forward to his visit in October and to seeing for himself the many changes since his last visit in 1975.

I first visited Beijing in October 1974. It was colder than I had expected and Chinese friends had to help me acquire ration coupons so that I could purchase a

padded cotton overcoat. There were few vehicles on the streets and few consumer items in the stores. You were unlucky if you did not like cabbage. No one could have imagined the remarkable developments that I have personally witnessed during my many visits since then. It is truly a case of "canghai sangian" (the vast sea has become a mulberry orchard). Soon you will be hosting the Olympics. Congratulations.

The United States and China are two great nations with two great peoples. We share many similarities, among which is the common human desire of our peoples for peace, prosperity and better lives for their children. To achieve this, we both need a positive, cooperative and constructive relationship.

To this end, I pledge my best efforts to bring us closer together; to listen carefully and to try to understand China, her aspirations and concerns; and to explain, as straight forwardly as I can, the United States to you. Our children and their children are counting on us to work closely together to shape a better future for all. We must not fail them. There is an old saying that reflects my aspirations for the future in U.S.-China relations -- "Bo yun jian ri" (to remove the clouds to see the sun).



*By Wei Feng*

According to the survey, Chinese children have some advantages of their own. One of the advantages is that they have much confidence in themselves. Only 6% of children think "he or she is poorer than others in ev-

### Caricature by Anita

According to the surveyed children above the age of 7, children in both the country and in cities and towns are the same in terms of their top-four career choices; namely, soldiers and policemen, teachers, doctors and scientists. The difference is that children in the countryside showed a greater preference for soldiers and policemen, teachers and doctors.

The survey shows that the students in primary and middle schools are not very interested in their school subjects. Unfortunately, with the grades increasing the students otherwise less like most subjects except for physics and chemistry. The number of the students who like Chinese language and mathematics decline from 65% and 61% in grade one of primary schools to 39% and 43% in their third year of junior middle schools. On the other hand, the subject of foreign languages is preferred by students with their grades increasing in primary schools, but the interest reduces again in junior middle schools. Fewer students are interested in music, fine arts and sports training, subjects once seen as popular and interesting.

Most teachers think effects to improve personal quality don't equate to 'reducing the burden of studies'. About 60% of teachers are definite that 'reducing the burden of studies' is not equivalent to quality education. About 25% to 40% of teachers believe that increased time on after class activities will be the main way of realizing quality education. Only 2% of teachers fully agree with the statement 'creativity is motivated by some specialized subjects'. 1% of teachers completely approve of 'the development of an appreciation for beauty depends on fine art classes and music classes'. About 32% of teachers oppose the statement 'students interests will be realized by the teachers or the subjects designed by school'. Therefore, although teachers realize that class work and after class activities shouldn't be in contradiction with each other, they still don't know how they can carry out quality education in their own daily teaching.

On average each family in Shenzhen owns 2.68 mobile phones. The average travel cost for a citizen amounts to 258.96 yuan and the individual spends up to 394 yuan for health.

**(By Wei Feng)**

[illegible]



# Contraband Customs Conspirators

The so-called red building,  
den of iniquity



## The Xiamen Yuanhua Smuggling Case 53,000 Million yuan Ferreted out

By Li Shouen

Up till now, 167 cases in Xiamen Yuanhua smuggling case have been decided; other cases are still in the process of trial. According to investigators, from 1996 to 1999, the smuggling ring organized by Lai Changxing smuggled imported refined oil, vegetable oil, cars, tobacco, chemical materials, western medicinal materials, electronic machinery etc. The total value of the smuggled goods amounts to 53,000 million yuan, which if imported legally, would have attracted taxes of 30,000 million yuan, 6 times the total amount of taxes levied by Xiamen Customs over the same period. Over 600 people were involved, including some high-ranking government officials bribed by Lai Changxing to act as the protecting umbrella for his smuggling ring.

### Lai Changxing, the Mr. Big

Lai Changxing was a peasant who didn't finish primary school. He registered his Xiamen Yuanhua Electronics Company in 1994. But he spared little time for electronics; instead, he devoted all his energy to smuggling.

With the expansion of his smuggling activities, he developed his company into Xiamen Yuanhua Group in 1997. Sheng Nanguang, vice director of the Investigation Branch, General Administration of Customs of the PRC, said: "The Lai Changxing ring was well organized and the tasks were carefully divided. For example, in each smuggling incident, there were particular persons taking charge of every step from organizing goods abroad, shipping, clearing customs, to selling the goods and laundering the illicit money. Lai Changxing was the decision-maker each time. He would often jump onto the stage himself, especially when there was a major deal happening."

In order to avoid investigation and exposure, members of Lai Changxing's ring could only make contact with the next person in the chain. Except for the core members, few knew what the others were doing, let alone about the whole smuggling process. Therefore even if one person was arrested, he only knew about the part he was directly involved in, and would not be able to incriminate the rest of the gang. Taking the vegetable oil smuggling as an example; in 1997, Lai Changxing conspired to smuggle vegetable oil with another trade company. Lai Changxing was responsible for bribing the customs inspectors to 'overlook' his smuggled goods. Others took up the task of issuing the VAT invoices. The trade company then managed to clear the customs in the name of several separate companies.

To smooth the path for his smuggling activities, he registered some other companies to sell his smuggled goods. He built a large warehouse and even rented a wharf.

Lai Changxing held another trump card in his hand. According to Qu Jing, the vice director of Anti-corruption Office of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, Lai Changxing once said to his friends that people's likes were their weaknesses. "If you like cars, then I give you cars; if you like women, then I send you women; If you like gambling, then I provide you the money. Whatever you want, I will give you."

The audacious smuggling offences of Lai Changxing's ring went for several years uninvestigated, and unpunished; the net he wove with money and beautiful women worked effectively.

### The Red Den of Iniquity

The six-story red building is not particularly eye-catching compared to many skyscrapers nowadays. But it is very famous in Xiamen. Most people in that city know that many VIPs from the government were frequent visitors. Publicly, it was the office building of Xiamen Yuanhua Group, where the headquarters are based, but no factory or machinery was ever installed there. In fact, the 140M-yuan-building is really worthy of the name of a pleasure-seeking palace.

The first floor was the reception hall. Going upstairs, guests were wine and dined with delicious dishes and precious liquor on the second floor. After eating and drinking their fill they were welcomed to the third floor to enjoy a relaxing sauna and massage. On the fourth floor, guests could sing and dance to their hearts' content in one of the three KTV rooms, or perhaps relax in the mini cinema. And when all this entertainment became too much, luxurious suites awaited on the fifth and sixth floors. If the company of a beautiful woman was required at any stage, this too, was easily arranged.



Lin Jindong, former Deputy-secretary of the Legal Committee of CPC Xiamen Municipal Committee



Zhuang Rushun, former Deputy-director of the Fujian Provincial Bureau of Public Security



Liu Feng, former Deputy-secretary of CPC Xiamen Municipal Committee



Jie Peiyong, former Deputy-director of Xiamen Customs



Zhao Keming, former Deputy-mayor of Xiamen



Li Jizhou, former Vice-minister of Public Security



Yang Qianxian, former Director of Xiamen Customs



Lan Pu, former Deputy-mayor of Xiamen



Criminals being judged on the court

Photos taken from CCTV by Yang Lizhu

### Case in Point, Examples of Audacity

Mu Xincheng, group leader of the central government "4-20" specific case group, and Director-General of General Administration of Customs of the PRC, on August 18, 1999, ordered the staff investigating the case in Xiamen to move in. They were dispatched to ten departments simultaneously in one day, seizing documents at the same time. Some of the suspects were arrested on the spot. The amount of illicit money confiscated reached 11,000 million within the first ten days.

This is the biggest such case ever cracked in China. All relevant departments transferred their selected personnel to Xiamen, and at one stage, there were over 1,100 people there working on the case.

At Xiamen Customs, the custom inspectors were chosen by Lai Changxing. Qu Jing said, "When positioning the inspectors, it was actually the underlings of Lai Changxing who suggested the placement of certain inspectors in certain positions. In fact, those inspectors were named indirectly by Lai Changxing. Therefore, once they had the intention of concealing something, the inspectors would shield their wrong doings or the guilty instead of exposing their smuggling."

For several years, large quantities of smuggled goods flowed in and out under the "check" of the custom staffs, but there were never records of smuggling. It gradually became a natural practice for Lai Changxing to assign important positions for Xiamen Customs. Lai Changxing was even given the name of "Underground Director".

Investigation shows that Lai Changxing's smuggling ring and other criminals smuggled over 4,500,000 tons of imported refined oil from 1996 to 1999. That means there was a ten-thousand-ton oil tanker arriving at Xiamen harbor every three days on average. From 1996 on, Lai Changxing's group smuggled over 3,000,000 cases of cigarettes by means of illegally reporting the names of goods. At one time, on the cigarette black market, for one certain brand, one pack out of every two was smuggled by Lai Changxing.

Qu Jing disclosed some other excesses of the Lai Changxing ring. The central government determined to take serious measures on smuggling in 1998. Even on such occasions, the former Xiamen director Yang Qianxian and the vice-director Jie Peiyong still connived to provide a shield for the smugglers.

One of the typical examples was: when customs officers were investigating another smuggling case in Xiamen, they had a conference on the ninth floor of the customs building. While the conference was proceeding, one of Lai Changxing's underlings called. He said they needed to anchor a ship that day and complained that the conference room was facing the harbor and that might expose their smuggling activities. Yang Qianxian responded accordingly and adjusted the conference to another room. Thus the ridiculous situation arose where one side was holding a conference about cracking down on smuggling, while the other side was smuggling almost in their faces.

Even when the Xiamen Yuanhua case was under investigation, Yang Qianxian continued to stand by Lai Changxing against the investigating group. Backed up by the conspiracy of Yang Qianxian and Zhuang Rushun, the vice director of the Public Security Department of Fujian Province, some of the main suspects including Lai Changxing escaped from Xiamen and much important evidence was deliberately destroyed.

Lai Changxing not only set up his own smuggling empire, he also took control of nearly all the other smuggling rings in Xiamen. All the other rings needed to have their activities approved by "Boss Lai", otherwise they would fall foul of the customs. Of course, they had to pay for his "protection": the fee for smuggling a car ranged from 50,000 to 120,000 yuan, a container of cigarettes was worth some 100,000 yuan, while a "quota" had to be approved by Lai Changxing for smuggling refined oil. Afterwards, Lai Changxing would take 70% of the profit as his "commission" once the smuggled goods had cleared customs.

### The Result, Justice Prevails

After more than one year's intensive investigation, the Xiamen Yuanhua case and the involved crimes of misconducts in office were cleared. The once arrogant and domineering criminal group was judged on the solemn court. Among the over 600 persons involved in the case, nearly 300 were charged with criminal offences.

All the government officials found guilty of accepting bribes or other serious crimes were either sentenced to death or given lengthy prison terms.



By Hu Xiaoli

As the neon lights of a Saturday night crackle into life, most people are hurrying home for the family meal, or are heading out for a night in town. Zaxi, however, closes his front door, and makes for "Leisure Dating". Zaxi is not going there in search of a date, rather to give any hopefuls musical accompaniment on their quest for love. "Leisure Dating" is a cosy pub in Beichen Road, near Yayun Village, with Tibetan decoration and atmosphere. At a small stage at the back of the pub, Zaxi sits wearing a black T-shirt and jeans, singing popular songs to his own piano accompaniment. He mainly takes songs from Lu Tayo, a very influential singer to those born in the 1960s and 1970s.

#### Moving beyond Tibet

30 years ago, a baby boy was born to an intellectual family in Lhasa of Tibet. His parents gave him the name Zaxi Junbei. In Tibetan, Zaxi means luckiness and Qunpei means enchanting the spirit of Buddhism; all his friends just call him Zaxi for short.

Lhasa, where Zaxi spent all his childhood, is not only the capital city of the Tibet Autonomous Region, but also a very important pilgrimage site for Buddhism. When Zaxi was a little boy, he often stood in the streets, watching thousands of people from all parts of Tibet making pilgrimages to the city, ritually prostrating themselves every step of the way, while dozens of years later, he himself stepped on the pilgrimage of music to Beijing. Some pilgrims would save all their money to complete one journey each year, sometimes taking up to several months to arrive. "At that time, I wondered why anyone would walk such a long way and make such an effort just for one wish: I finally understood when I grew up," he said slowly.

At the age of 14, Zaxi began the first pilgrimage of his life. He was sent to Beijing that year with 22 other students to study bamboo flute in the Central Nationality Institute. "That was the first time I went to such a distant place," he said, recalling the first day he arrived in

Beijing.

"Our train arrived at Beijing Station at 11:40 p.m., on September 14, 1985." 16 years have passed, but Zaxi still remembers the exact time of his arrival. When he got off the train and walked past Tiananmen Square along Changan Avenue, the Gate of Heavenly Peace arched majestically across the dark blue sky. This image imprinted itself forever in the mind of this 14-year-old boy, who realized he was beginning his own pilgrimage of the soul.

Every man has a dream of the mysterious in his soul. For many out-

siders, Tibet occupies exactly such a place in the psyche. Here, however, is a Tibetan who regards Beijing as magical and full of mystery. During his five years' studying in Beijing, Zaxi was soon swayed by the city's rich atmosphere of culture and art. Graduation came all too soon, and he found himself assigned back to Lhasa to work in the Tibet Song and Dance Troupe with 22 fellow students. He was naturally pleased to return home to his family, but always felt the pull of something deeper calling him from the East. Zaxi soon started to long for Beijing. "I

He soon found that a pilgrimage of the soul is not such an easy undertaking. Although Zaxi had decided to become a singer in a pub, he couldn't even sing or accompany at that time. To get a foot inside the door, Zaxi became a waiter in the pub. "That was a hard time, but I enjoyed my decision." With less than 200 RMB income a month at the beginning, Zaxi began to do odd jobs in the pub while trying his best to learn by heart every chord Hu Bin played on stage. After the guests had left, he put four tables together for his bed. Like many new-comers

# A Tibetan's Musical Pilgrimage to Beijing



the drums. Zaxi stood up and excused himself politely. It was his turn to sing.

After his own pub closed, Zaxi was introduced to Leisure Dating, opened by a Tibetan friend of his. Every Friday and Saturday evening, Zaxi sings from 10 to 12 in this pub. When his good friends come, he sings for longer.

Zaxi always starts his singing with a Tibetan song. "I can touch the cloud of home and smell the smoke of Papa's tobacco," Zaxi said. As he sings, his strong love for life becomes physical vibes floating across the pub. "He sings with all his heart and soul, not simply for making a living," the manager of the pub said while Zaxi was singing on stage.

"I will go on singing as long as there is someone who likes to listen to my songs," Zaxi often tells his friends. With the deepening colors of the evening sky, Zaxi is singing along to the skillful accompaniment of his own hands, not noticing the coming and going of the customers. "I will go on sailing forever, even if there is no navigation light." A pilgrim's singing echoes in the small pub and ripples out into the open air of the night.

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my goal," he said slowly.

#### Nothing Important Lost

In the summer of 2000, with the help of two other friends, Zaxi opened his own pub near Yonghe Lamasery in the north of Beijing. He put all his savings into the new pub, hoping another dream would come true. He equipped the pub with a new piano and a set of high quality acoustic equipment. It was his kingdom during that period. Zaxi talked happily about the early days when his own pub opened, "I was very excited about my own pub, as I could meet my friends and sing songs in complete freedom."

Things do not always go as planned however. Because of the pub's out-of-the-way location in a back alley with no parking space, it began to run at a loss. After one year of business, Zaxi's pub had no choice but to close down. All he possessed in the end was the piano from the pub. On the evening he moved the piano to his rented home, he felt he had nowhere to go for the first time in his life.

"I had been sitting in the dark for a long time, and felt completely lost at that moment," Zaxi said in a deep tone, "but when I touched the keyboard by chance and heard the notes in the dark, I realized I hadn't lost anything important, for I still had my music and my freedom." His eyes sparkled again when talking about the music. The rise and fall of business had not affected this artist's pilgrimage of the soul.

The drummer began to tap out a rhythm on

didn't know why, but I just missed the city," he said in a soft voice. During the following years, Zaxi became a regular commuter between Lhasa and Beijing.

#### The Pilgrimage Begins

One summer holiday in 1996, Zaxi came to visit Beijing as usual and keeps on prolonging the visit. He was always pulled back to his Alma Mater on these visits, since he regarded the five years spent there as the most important in his life. "I would go to a pub near my Alma Mater quite often at that time," he recalled, "I noticed a young singer in the pub," he continued, casting his eyes out of the window.

This young singer, called Hu Bin, had come to Beijing from Anhui to follow his own dream. His persistence in searching for his own freedom as well as his talent in music had a profound influence on Zaxi. He realized that this was the lifestyle his instincts were pushing him to find. With no further hesitation, Zaxi resigned from his job in Lhasa and stayed on in Beijing. "I suddenly knew what I really wanted," he said, "to be a pub singer in this charming city."

After hearing of his resignation, all his friends in Tibet thought he was crazy to abandon a stable job there. They even bet that he would be back in two months. "But they were wrong," Zaxi said with a confident smile on his face.

to Beijing, he didn't have anywhere near enough money to rent a single room. But in the morning, when there was nobody in the pub, he had a chance to learn piano and guitar by himself. "I learned to sing the songs I liked and practiced the chords on the piano little by little," Zaxi smiled with his fingers moving rhythmically on the table.

Sometimes he would run into his former teachers of the Central Nationality Institute in the pub. "They felt very surprised and sorry to see me working as a waiter in the pub, but I didn't care, for I was just following my own dream." However, he was still hurt by other singers' contemptuous eyes when they saw him practicing. Although he had made great progress in singing and playing the piano, he still had to stand to one side to serve food and drink when other singers were singing on stage.

Gradually, Zaxi got the chance to take the place of a singer who was a few minutes late, but went off the stage to serve again as soon as the singer arrived.

It was only in February of 1997, after seven months as a waiter, that the manager of the pub noticed the talent of this silent Tibetan man, and told Zaxi that he could stop being a waiter and could sing on stage from then on. "I finally achieved



② Zaxi's musical shrine

③ Pub full of fans

④ touch the cloud of home

Photos by Jia Ting





# Silent Voice of Antiquity

Photo by Chen Shuyi

By Miao Yajie

Over ten ancient tombs were excavated in the past month at a construction site called You'anmen Wai. In an area of about 3000m<sup>2</sup> of the constructed Kaiyangli estate, tombs dating back from the Han Dynasty (206BC-220AD) to the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) were closely scattered. An exquisite three-color-glazed bowl was the first of its kind unearthed in the current city proper. Four water wells used from the Tang Dynasty through the Qing Dynasty were also found at the same site.

## The Group of Graves

Kaiyangli estate, one of the primary ramshackle house reconstruction projects of Beijing this year, is located at You'anmen Wai San Tiao. There used to be one-story dwellings in this area. Lots of blue bricks were discovered when the construction workers were digging the foundations on 18 June. During a careful excavation of one month, many of the tombs revealed their true faces. The biggest tomb was about 20m<sup>2</sup>, built in brick, and empty when found; and the smallest one was about 8m<sup>2</sup>. Among them, there were two multi-chamber brick tombs and a mound tomb of the Han and

Wei period (206BC-265AD), and four brick tombs of the Tang and Liao period (618-1125).

The dating was based on the shape and structure of the tombs, and the bricks used. Multi-chamber tombs were a characteristic of the Han Dynasty, and tombs of the Tang Dynasty found in this area appeared to be bottle shaped.

The skeletons of a couple were found in the tomb of the Han and Wei period, a female and a male skeleton were found in the two tombs of the Tang and Liao periods respectively.

"Unfortunately no tombstones or other inscriptions were found in any

of the tombs, so we can't identify the status of the dead," said Li Hua, researcher at the Beijing Relics Research Institute.

Fortunately, a well-preserved three-color-glazed bowl was found at one of the Tang tombs, exquisite in both the color of the glaze and the design. "It was the first of its kind unearthed in the current city proper," according to Li. "Another bowl of the Yuan Dynasty was broken during the construction."

The wells, 7 to 8 meters deep, one meter in diameter at the mouth, had several layers. Each layer was with bricks of different periods from the

Tang Dynasty to the Liao and Jin period (916-1234). Some of them were even still in use during the Qing Dynasty, because typical Qing bricks were also found at the mouth.

## History of Beijing

Beijing is a city with over 3,000 years of history. According to historical records and archaeological discoveries, the construction of the city of Beijing started from the late Shang Dynasty or the early Zhou Dynasty (11th century BC). It was first called Jicheng, which was around today's Guang'anmen, Xuanwu District, then Youzhou in the Tang Dynasty, Nanjing or Yanjing in the Liao Dynasty, Zhongdu in the Jin Dynasty, Dadu in the Yuan Dynasty, and Beijing from the Ming Dynasty till now. Since 1271 in the Yuan Dynasty, Beijing has been the political and cultural center of a unified country for over 700 years.

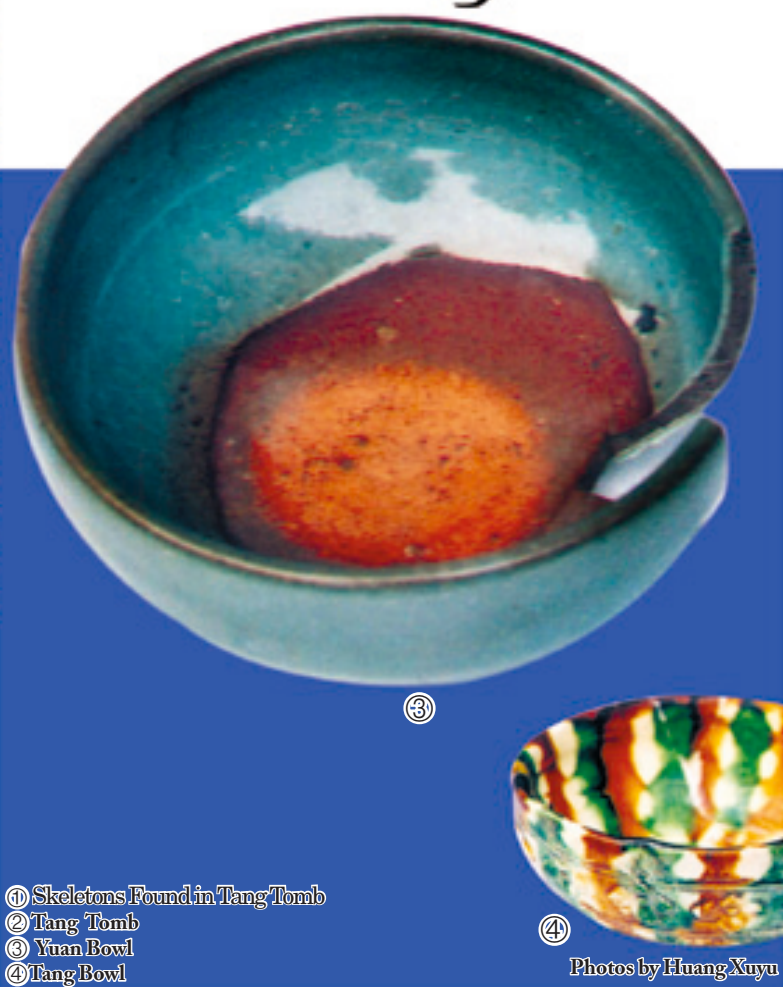
## Major Discoveries From the 50's

You'anmen Wai used to be the suburb of Jicheng and Youzhou and used as an important burial site at that time. Graves of the Han and Wei period, and the Tang and Liao period have been excavated abundantly over the years.

In the 50's, the excavation of the portrait stone of the Han Dynasty was a precious discovery in the archaeological research of the Qin and Han period (221BC-220AD) in the Beijing area.

In 1982, the Tomb of Liu Qian of the Tang Dynasty was unearthed, which provided reference for the southern border of Youzhou in the Tang and Liao periods.

In 1990, in another estate west of You'anmen Wai Street, the former site of the south water gate of Zhoudu city of the Jin Dynasty was unearthed and was nominated as one of the top ten archaeological discoveries of the year.



① Skeletons Found in Tang Tomb  
② Tang Tomb  
③ Yuan Bowl  
④ Tang Bowl



Photos by Huang Xuyun



② Photo by Chen Shuyi

# Comics Record Hutong Life



By Xiao Xia

"Ice-lollies relieve internal heat. Three cents. Five cents. Ice cream, Really the Arctic."

"Little brother, Mother told us not to spend the change. We will get diarrhea."

Resisting the temptation of ice-lollies sounds a little bit ridiculous to children of 20th century. Yet this was part of a true conversation between a brother and sister in 1970s, and was read as a comic caption in Yang Xin (the little brother)'s comic exhibition.

Yang Xin displayed around 70 comics on life in Beijing Hutongs over the past 40 years in an exhibition named Hutong Memory, which ended on July 24. According to Yang Xin, some of the ideas in his comics came from his own experience. The color pencils in his hand told stories from the "grass roots of society" according to Yang Xin.

After almost 3 years' preparation, a work on Beijing gate stones by a Japanese artist inspired Yang Xin for his creation in May 2000. "It's about time some Beijingers did something to commemorate the relics of the city," said Yang Xin. "Individual efforts are too limited, I hope more and more people will take part in this."

Before drawing the comics, Yang Xin visited most of the famous Hutongs in Beijing and talked with dozens of senior citizens to clarify his childhood Hutong memories. "Sometimes they assumed I had bad intentions and refused my interviews." Yang Xin said, laughing as he sat next to his works.

Talking about the motivation behind his work, Yang Xin believes most of the Hutongs will be destroyed as high buildings are built in their place. What we will lose is not only the Hutong itself but also a form of culture and personal relationships only found in Hutongs. Yang Xin is the man to keep these alive. Just like Wang Fuyang, a famous artist said "They (the comics) will take people back to the good old days."

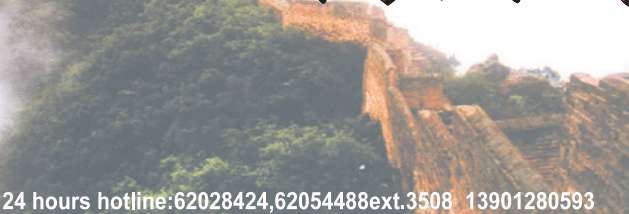


Photo by Cui Jun

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# Han Roots in the Mountains

by Hu Xiaoli

During Spring Festival in 1995, a young professional photographer accidentally came across a small remote village, and suddenly realized that the Han Nationality is also a unique nationality with its own special features. This photographer is Jin Yongquan of China Youth Daily. Over the following five years, Jin went there alone every Spring Festival answering some mysterious callings. The fifth time, during the first Spring Festival of the new Millennium, Jin asked two other journalists, Chen Tong and Liu Chun, to accompany him there. Thus, the book, *The Last Han Nationality*, was born.

"It was really astonishing to find a village where the main features of the Han nationality are preserved." Liu Chun, one of the writers of the book, recalled her deep impression on seeing Shiyou village located in the mountains on the border between Jiangxi and Fujian provinces in the south of China in the year 2000.

In Shiyou village, ancient customs and habits have remained nearly intact. The villagers are very polite and modest; most of them look amazingly dignified and beautiful. Shiyou is further distinguished by Nuo Drama, a kind of exorcising drama for the purpose of driving away misfortune. "Shiyou Village is the epitome of the Han nationality, a miniature sculpture and a work of art." Said Liu, "Han is an excellent nationality, but we seldom realize its unique traits."

Talking about writing this book, Liu said, "As the majority of the Chinese nation, Han nationality, which occupies more than 90 percent of the population, seems to have no distinctive features. Sometimes we have been lumping together the features of the Han nationality and the Chinese nation, but we have no right to neglect the Han's features as a distinctive nationality. What we are doing is telling who we are and where we come from."

"We have dialogues with nearly all the people in the village," Liu said. The book is made up of pictures and conversations. According to Liu, they did not simply introduce the histories, but mainly describe the common villagers' lives in this village. Through the eyes of three young people, the image of the Han nationality becomes more and more clear.

It is a book trying to search out the traditions of Han nationality. It is also a journey Hans to find their roots. The traditions in this village are challenged by modern society. People living there might be the last of Hans.



Photo by Jin Yongquan

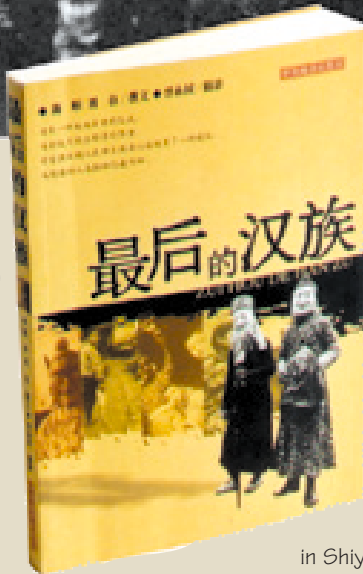
## Masks

by Chen Tong

Before we set off, Jin taught us some elementary knowledge that he believed we should know. One was the "face" (mask). The local people do not call the nuo (exorcizing) mask "face", but Xinxiang, meaning belief. When we had tea together in Beijing, Jin showed us some pictures, square ones with a sharp contrast. He said they were printed by Zhang Zuo who possessed the best dark-room in Beijing.

Jin entitled the group of pictures "double-faced men", in accordance with an old saying "with the mask, a deity, without the mask, a man". He believes the title of "double-faced men" fully shows the relationship between humans and deities—both humans' reverence for deities and the dignity of humans. The performance of nuo masks is a kind of rite with order, during which the performers, showing humans' humbleness before the deities, express humans' respectable inner world.

In Jin's description, there is a wide gap like a natural moat between humans and deities. The mystery of the masks lies in their ability to let the common herd leap to the celestial world. According to Jin, Shiyou and nearby villages in Jiangxi Province have the tradition of staging nuo mask performances during Spring Festival. He believes the performance in Shiyou, with distinct features, is the most original and most impressive. The performances in other places, he said, have less mys-



terious color. Many are like village theatrical performances, such as Piggy Taking a Wife in which an actor plays Piggy by wearing a pig mask. The nuo mask performance

in Shiyou involves more reverence and worship, and the movements are rustic and vigorous. Looking plain, it carries rich and complex meanings. Jin said he often feels a kind of fierce conflict, bloodshed and slaughter, as well as sex and dignity, in the performance. He endeavored to draw us a picture of an imagined tribal village ruled by 32 chiefs. There are eight senior members in the village. During Spring Festival, they give nuo mask performances house by house. The villagers, in awe and veneration, participate in the whole rite. The village is one featuring the separation of religion from politics, with the tribal chiefs taking care of matters related to nuo, or religion, and village cadres taking charge of administration ranging from eliminating illiteracy to family planning. The chiefs and cadres mind their own business and live in peace with each other, keeping the village in perfect order.

In Jin's pictures, we see imposing dwellings and spacious courtyards with distinct local features. Jin guessed they must be built by noble families from north or central China who fled here by coincidence during the turmoil and chaos of war of a certain dynasty. These families mul-

tiplied the earth here, while passing down the feudal ethical code through the form of nuo mask performance.

Now, we have come back from Shiyou. The three of us have many differences on the definition of the "last Hans", the characters, features and symbol of the Hans, and the existence of such a tribe known as the "last Hans". We will discuss these differences in the ending of the book. As for the "masks", there are in deed lots of mysterious legends related to them in the locality. One is that a "face" should be changed, or reprinted, once every three years, and if a person who is asked to do so bears selfish motives or is unwilling to make contributions, he will have bad luck. Second, the nuo rite is completed on the 15th day of the first month of the lunar calendar. On the day, the nuo mask performers go to each house to search for demons. If the performer wearing the "kaishan" (opening mountain) mask smells trouble in a house, the family is persuaded to move to a relative's home to escape a doomed mishap. It is said that a family who had refused to take heed of the warning later did meet with a mishap. Third, originally women were supposed not to be present at the nuo completion ceremony. In 1985, some women came from the provincial capital to watch the performance. On that very night, the Nuo God Temple caught fire, burning all the old statues in the temple, including some invaluable ones built during the Ming Dynasty. Later, the village rebuilt the statues. Since then, women have been permitted to watch the nuo mask performance, and the temple has never caught fire. People say the temper of the new deities is not as hot as that of the old ones.

## Remote Sight

by Jin Yongquan

When I first read the text written by Cheng Tong and Liu Chun while sorting out pictures for the book, I found all the descriptions in it so strange that they seem to talk to someone who is unrelated to me and tell an indifferent me about a mysterious strange land that has nothing to do with me.

I felt a kind of nameless sadness, a feeling I faintly got from the natives the second time I went to the village. The villagers who warmly invited me to come again when we drank wine together during my first visit showed a restrained smile when we met again, asking where I was from.

Don't think I'll act differently. After I returned to this boundless city and to ordinary and trivial daily life, aren't indifference, estrangement and unsatisfied desires the staples we face every day?

Why did I insist on going there every spring between 1995-2000? There must be a kind of force that inspired me. The wild noise of firecrackers that resound to the expansive sky over the quiet mountains, the sound of beating cowhide drums that shake heaven and earth, the unyieldingness and bloodshed between the glint and flash of daggers and swords, the gentleness, elegance and calmness, and those gleaming and penetrating eyes behind the masks. This is nuo (exorcizing). The humble villagers of the Han nationality who remain beyond social power structures give nuo mask performances in early spring every year. It is a far cry from the "carefully planned and designed concepts and forms" we frequently meet in our lives. It is so far the only force in the life of the Han nationality that really moves me.

In the last few years of the 20th century, I eagerly wanted to know everything there, hoping to connect the fragments of my life and imagination there, and find the order, dignity and belief that would help me settle down and get on with my work and also the origin of me, a member of the Han nationality. This experience, rather than seeking the secrets of the life of others, aims to find the answer for my own status of subsistence. I generously left my youthful and excessive energy there, so that my colleague Chen Tong said I'd been completely moved.

During the Spring Festival of 1998, I drank a lot of millet wine in a small mountain village named Zhongping. The wine doesn't taste strong at the beginning, but can get you completely drunk. In the dead of night, in a small warehouse on the slope of the Junfeng Mountain, I fell from my hard plank bed to the ground and climbed back into bed, and then again. That night, for the first time I doubted the "significance" of my expedition and felt extreme loneliness and helplessness. The next morning, however, carrying my knapsack, I rushed to another village.

Today, when I'm looking over those pictures in the study of my home in Beijing in the depth of a freezing winter night, I seem to feel a warm torrent and the waft of spring grass blowing over from the remote mountains, as well as the flavor of rice and millet wine mixed with the smell of firecrackers and cow dung. I cannot help feeling moved enormously.

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# Take It OR Leave It?

By Zhu Lin / Zhang Jing

Even if the Monkey King came back to life, he would be amazed how modern people have adapted his adventure into various TV series, films and books. Recently, the newly made "Sequel Journey to the West" directed and starred by Cao Rong from Hong Kong is being aired on BTV-3. This teleplay carries a distinctive style from Hong Kong and Taiwan, provoking different reactions from viewers.

"Journey to the West" (Monkey King) is a classic Chinese mythological novel. It was written during the Ming Dynasty based on traditional folktales. Consisting of 100 chapters, this fantasy relates the adventures of a Tang Dynasty priest Sanzang and his three disciples, Monkey, Pig and Friar Sand, as they travel west in search of Buddhist Sutra. The story describes how they vanquish de-

mons and monsters, and after overcoming many dangers, finally arrive at their destination and find the Sutra.

The story of "Sequel Journey to the West" happens after Sanzang gets the Buddhist Sutra. The Buddhist patriarch dies and the monsters and spirits cause chaos in heaven. In order to keep the peace, Sanzang, a traditionally gentle and frail figure, had to fight against all kinds of monsters together with his disciples. And the Monkey King, who is also a Buddhist, fell in love with a robber disguised as a beauty.

Such an adaptation disappoints viewers as much as it shocks them with its upside down plot. Yang Jie, the director of the early TV series "Journey to the West", notices that Cao Rong doesn't know how to use his eyes in his role, the Monkey King. His eyes are so rigid.

The only Monkey King cher-

ished in Chinese viewers' hearts is played by Zhang Jinlai, professional name Liu Xiaolingtong (meaning "started to perform at six years old"). He starred as the Monkey King in the 1988 TV series. Few Chinese born before 1980 don't know his name. He holds a strong opinion about the adaptation of classics, "We don't have hundreds of classic works. If people keep on spoiling them, we won't have much treasure left." He often calls out to concerned officials that China should set up some regulations to protect classic works.

But many young people don't think so. They don't relate the teleplay with Chinese heritage so much. Chen Tao, a college student of twenty years old, says, "Sequel of Journey to the West" is just plain entertainment. He watches it everyday. "Why does it have to have a meaning? I watch it to relax, and don't need to beat my brain to figure out what it means."

No matter how the directors make their story, viewers have their own judgments. Cao Rong is just one of many directors, some from outside China as well as within, who are keen to adapt the story of the Monkey King. The question is, do directors always need to run to the classics as inspiration for teleplays meant for entertainment?

## Passionate Tango

The Argentina Tango Troupe "Passionate Tango" highlighted Beijing's stage on July 20 and 21 at the Tianqiao Theatre. The dancers started and stopped in perfect timing, and their brilliant movements aroused the audience' hidden passion.

(Zhu Lin)

Photo by Jia Ting

## Money Spinning Drama

By Zhu Lin

Ever thought a drama could teach you how to get rich? "Poor Dad, Rich Dad" is a drama that does exactly this. It has been showing at the Youth Art Theatre from July 25.

Ever since the book "Poor Dad, Rich Dad" grabbed readers' attention in 1999, it has held the top position of the book market. The drama adapted from the book is closer to the Chinese situation. There are intellectuals proud of their smartness but short of money; there are bosses going crazy with financial problems and eager to learn more. As the story continues, the audience gets to see a micro society on a small stage, while thinking about a wayout of their own problems.

The drama is produced by the program "Conversation" of BTV-3. Accordingly, it uses the form of conversation between people on and off the stage. In this way, the audience can participate in the drama, as the producer says, "We promise to make you happy, teach you more about money and shock you!"



By Zhu Lin

Vladimir Horowitz, one of the greatest pianists of the 20th century, only had two pupils in his last years. The Chinese pianist, Dan-Wen Wei is one of them. Wei's piano recital on July 22 at the Forbidden City Concert Hall was a great success, except for the fact that only one

sixth of the seats were filled.

Wei's programme is a challenge to many pianists. He displayed excellent technique and strength of feeling in his interpretation of Franz Liszt's Sonata in B minor. In his performance of Mozart's Adagio in B Minor, K. 540, the purity evoked in the color of tone touched a tender place in the memory where childhood dreams used to dwell. The concert ended with S. Prokofiev's NO. 7 Sonata, a dazzling piece sometimes called "the first Jazz in the world". In his poetic manner, Wei vividly expressed the combination of suffering and exhilaration in the complicated music. "I have never played this piece as well as tonight," Wei said.

It's a great pity that this excellent concert drew such a small audience. Although Wei was featured in the magazine "Vanity Fair" and used to perform with the New York Philharmonic directed by Zubin Mehta, only a small section of the media reported his concert in Beijing. Chinese audiences need to know more musicians besides the icons. The Chinese market for music performances needs to expand beyond the mainstream to encourage the less renowned artists.



Photo provided by Tan Lulu



## Antiquity & Fashion in Harmony



Photo by Chen Shuyi

Sheltered under the green trees, this is a distinctive store located in the quiet end of the Sanlitun embassy area. Stepping inside I felt I was entering the home of a noble family of the Ming or Qing dynasty. The room is decorated with the most wonderful antique furniture, and the flickering lamplight and mysterious sounding Tibetan music add to the impression. From a naughty boy playing in the corner to people sitting on the cozy sofas, everybody seems at home and comfortable in this charming atmosphere. There are two French style, red cloth-covered sofas by the big floor-to-ceiling windows. Apart from these two modern pieces, the rest of the furniture is all antique Ming and Qing dinner tables, tea tables and tea sets, bureaux, cabinets and shelves. The red wooden square table for eight people gives strong sense of traditional Chinese culture. You can actually book dinner and experience dining at this kind of special Chinese table, for Xiaoni, the attractive young owner, has employed chefs from Sichuan Province to serve typical Sichuan food. Scattered here and there are many artifacts collected by the owner. All the furniture and artcrafts are on sale, ranging from 100 to more than several thousand yuan.

**Add:** Jingucang (金谷仓), No.1, Sanlitun North Street, Xingfu Sancun (幸福三村), Chaoyang District.

**Open:** 9am-midnight, or whenever the last guests leave.  
**Tel:** 64637389/7240

## Remote Control Heaven



Photo by Fan Xuedong

ago. It is the agent for the Japanese brand Kyosho, and also carries Futaba, Hirobo, Tamiya, O.S., and JR PROPO brands. Cars and airplanes account for 80% of the goods on sale.

The cars include road and cross-country vehicles, and electric and petrol-powered models are available. As for the planes, they have both racing and stunt models. The shop also stocks a wide range of spare parts, for which there is always a demand. The shop assistants are all remote control model enthusiasts, and some have participated in various championship events in China. The manager, Mr. Wang is very warm and friendly, and happy to teach newcomers how to control the airplanes, and he let me try out a PC game, which enables beginners to practice their flying skills. The prices of the wheeled vehicles range from 2,000 to 30,000 yuan, and the planes, from 6,000 to 30,000 yuan. There are also static models in the basement, priced between a few yuan to 2,000 yuan, mostly over 100 yuan. If you are interested, they will keep you informed about upcoming competitions.

**Add:** A1, building 7, block 4, Anhuali (安华里), Chaoyang District, 500 meters from Anzhenqiao (安贞桥), on the west side of the road. **Tel / Fax:** 64207706.

By Li Dan



Picture by Li Yue

## Downmarket Rice Noodles

By Wang Dandan

Are you used to the luxury and delicate food served in the star hotels? Or you are tired of looking at the routine smiles of waiting staff in restaurants? All these are far away from a small flavor restaurant in Xijiekou, one that specializes in Sichuan rice noodles.

This restaurant was opened nearly 20 years ago, probably the oldest restaurant in the street. The food is very simple, various kinds of rice noodles and Sichuan flavor dishes. Customers sit in a simple, some might say crude, environment. There are four tables in the center of the room, and a long table along the wall. But the food is fantastic. Many of the regulars say the handmade noodles are the best genuine Sichuan flavor noodles in Beijing. As for the rice, you might be already familiar with those rice dishes served in fast food restaurants; chicken rice, beef rice etc. They have their counterparts here, but prepared quite differently. Each rice dish is served in a small terrine, together with some pickled cabbage, made in the traditional Sichuan way.

No air-conditioning, no beautiful plates, you even have to ask for a paper serviette. Though the noodles and rice are excellent, the other dishes on the menu are perhaps not quite so delicious, but that's ok, the noodles and rice are good enough to warrant a special trip.

**Add:** Guifeng Rice-noodle Restaurant (桂风) about 10 meters south of the south-east exit of Jishuitan (积水潭) subway station.

**Attention:** No telephone, you have to be there if you want to something!

When asked if they know Panjiayuan Flea Market, most foreigners living in the capital will answer "Of course!". Indeed, Panjiayuan Flea Market's reputation has spread well beyond Beijing. It is highlighted on most touring maps of Beijing, even those published abroad. Every weekend, hordes of locals and foreigners, collectors, bargain-hunters and the simply curious, head into this noisy and bustling market.

There is a wonderful diversity of goods on sale at Panjiayuan; jade and copperware, wooden furniture, pottery and porcelain, old prints and posters, books other sundry goods. It is now the biggest wholesale and retail market of artifacts in China. The column of Panjiayuan Flea Market will introduce you some of the interesting stores and stands there. Who knows when you might just stumble across a priceless treasure!

## STEP INTO WORLD OF XU'S CALABASH

By Li Dan

Little calabashes create a colorful world. You will not understand the true meaning of these words until you step into Xu's Calabash. This tiny room of no more than 8 square meters is crammed with various types of calabashes, hanging on the walls, displayed on the shelves and piled up on tables.

"What's this, what's that?" people frequently ask of Xu Zhaoqing, the 67-year-old owner of Xu's Calabash. He smiles with pride and replies "Calabash, they are all calabashes". I pointed to a rat-like one, which even had eyes, ears and a long tail, "Is this really a calabash?" "Yes, it's a natural grown calabash". I saw another with a very long stalk twisted into a figure eight. The owner Xu said this is a very difficult craft and there is only one person in the country who has the skill to do this. Many other calabashes are also grotesque in shape or appearance, including some resembling a shellfish, a tobacco-pipe, a stringed instrument and so on. The biggest is like a large vase while the smallest is no bigger than a grape. The most amazing craftsmanship is involved in engraving and shaping those exquisite calabashes. "Firstly imagine a design, then carve it into a mould. Place the mould on the baby calabash and wait for it to grow. Finally you remove the mould to reveal the finished calabash." On some of these cala-



Flea Market

bashes, you can see calligraphy, traditional Chinese paintings, even a little statue of Buddha.

Chinese people often say, "What kind of medicine have you put into the calabash?" to show their strong curiosity about something. In the past, wealthy people or members of the royal family put crickets and cicadas into a calabash and carried it around with them everywhere. Even today, some old Beijing locals are fond of collecting calabashes and keeping those insects. When I was chatting with Mr. Xu, several crickets and cicadas began to sing loudly, as if to give me a warm welcome.

**Add:** 24, row 4 (丁排), antique hall, Beijing Panjiayuan Flea Market, Panjiayuan Rd. (潘家园路), south part of east third ring road, Chaoyang District. **Open:** everyday 9am-4:30pm  
**Tel:** 67715164 / 13651099181

*Xu and his rat-like cala bash, which costs 20,000 yuan.*



Photo by Chen Shuyi

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Property markets in recent Olympic host cities have picked up gold medals for direct, short-term impacts on the hotel sector; short-term boost on the residential and retail sector, and direct benefits on office markets.



Beijing Future Olympic Village

# Olympic Host Cities Take Real Estate Gold

## Impacts on Beijing Real Estate Market

### Hotel Market

Olympics would likely induce further construction of 4-5 star properties in the years leading up to the Games.

### Office / Retail Markets

Little direct impact, but will stimulate further demand as part of the opening of the economy to overseas corporations.

### Residential Market

Olympic Village will become an attractive new residential neighborhood (80 hectares /approx 200 acres).

### Urban Regeneration

Government is promising major environmental improvements, particularly in atmospheric quality. They will also create a major new urban park covering 760 hectares (approx 1,900 acres) and create a new focal point in the north.

By Zhang Xia

While the Olympic Games lasts only 16 days, the effect on the real estate markets in host cities will be felt long after the final gold medals are awarded. So says a new report released by Jones Lang LaSalle and LaSalle Investment Management.

The report, "Reaching Beyond the Gold: The Impact of the Olympic Games on Real Estate Markets," examines the legacies of four recent Olympic hosts - Seoul (1988), Barcelona (1992), Atlanta (1996) and Sydney (2000) - and takes a look at how their hotel, residential, office and retail property markets were affected.

"The property markets in recent Olympic host cities were rewarded with gold medal performances," said Melinda McKay, Senior Vice President, Jones Lang LaSalle, and one of the co-authors of the study. "The benefits of hosting the Games vary from city to city, depending on the size and relative maturity of the local property market. They include increased construction activity, record levels of absorption and increased rentals. However, the benefits are largely indirect and experienced over a long time frame, with more direct, short-term impacts felt in the hotel sector."

### Hotel Sector

The hotel sector is clearly the most af-

fected by the Olympic Games, due to the direct impact of Olympic-related visitors and the resulting demand for short-term accommodation. Once the Olympics are over, however, the impact has varied significantly, based on the maturity of the local tourist market, the degree of Olympic-induced hotel supply, and how well the region took advantage of the games to benefit its tourism industry.

The Games appear to have had the most significant impact on tourism in Seoul, with an 18.1 percent growth in visitors. This growth was sustained for the following two years as well, indicating that the Olympics effectively served to "open up" the country to international visitors.

### International Visitor Growth Pre, During & Post Olympic Games

Major increases in room supply were characteristic across all four recent host cities. Athens is already experiencing a rush of developer interest, as the market is arguably under-serviced with the required international standard room supply. This was a result of increased supply as demand increased at an average of 11.8 percent during the Olympic year. Occupancy levels typically have recovered in the years following the Games.

### Residential Sector

While the Olympics can provide a short-term boost to some rents and prices in host cities, the most significant impact of the Games lies in the development of new districts around

the Olympic corridor.

This impact was most pronounced in Barcelona, where residential construction increased by 23 percent between 1988 and 1991, compared to increases of five percent in the hotel and 12 percent in the office markets.

The Olympics did, however, help to create a more attractive inner city residential environment through improvements in public transportation, retail amenities and public areas, such as parks and pedestrian walkways.

### Office Sector

"While the Olympics can serve as a major city promotional campaign, the Games are unlikely to be effective in driving international capital to the city without sound business reasons to support the move," said Craig Plumb, Director of Research for Jones Lang LaSalle and a co-author of the study.

Office markets receive more direct benefits from the major improvements in transport and telecommunications infrastructure often made by host cities. Atlanta, for example, spent a total of \$1 billion on capital works to accommodate the Olympics, including an upgrade of the Hartsfield International Airport and a new telecommunications infrastructure. Atlanta is now also ranked as the second most wired city in the U.S. and, as a result, has been able to attract numerous technology companies to the city.

### Retail Sector

"With the exception of Barcelona, which saw a 20 percent increase in the stock of modern retail space between 1990 and 1995, the Olympics have not resulted in significant levels of additional construction in the sector," noted Plumb. The most direct impact is a short-term boost to retail spending resulting from increased tourism. Retail sales in Atlanta were boosted by an estimated \$2 billion in 1996, expanding at twice the national average in the Olympic year. Similarly, the Sydney Olympics resulted in a net increase of \$88 million in retail sales in the month of September 2000 alone for the state.

## Hotel in a "Siheyuan"

by Wang Dandan

A Chinese garden of classic beauty in a quiet lane west of the Drum Tower houses the famous Bamboo Garden Hotel. It was once the residence of a Qing Dynasty Minister of Posts, Shen Xuanhuai, and was also said to be the garden of Li Lianying, a well-known eunuch of the Qing dynasty.

The halls and buildings are linked by galleries, and the courtyard is densely wooded with bamboo groves. Rockeries and miniature artificial mountains are embellished with exotic flowers and rare plants, making a fascinating and picturesque rendezvous. In summer and autumn, tables and chairs shaded by

parasols are set out in pavilions and on terraces decorated with colorful lanterns.

There are two kinds of rooms in the hotel, standard and deluxe suites. One of the two suites is decorated in the style of the Ming dynasty. Serene, elegant and simple, they are decorated with plaques bearing inscriptions by famous calligraphers. All rooms are provided with satellite TV, refrigerator, and IDD phones.

The hotel has a Chinese restaurant, named the Drunken Beauty Verandah, and a western style restaurant called the Studio of Tending the Pines. There is also a cafe, bar, shops, dance hall, beauty parlor and sauna, while chauffeur-driven cars are available for guest's use. Add: Bam-



Photo by Fan Xuedong

boo Garden Hotel, Xiaoshiqiao Hutong (小石桥胡同), Jiuguloudajie (旧鼓楼大街) Phone: 64032229. Room rate: 380 - 580 yuan.

## Housing Bank Offers Prepaid Rent

By Wang Dandan

Housing banks are gradually finding their way onto the Beijing market. Beijing Xinzun Real Estate Company recently established one, called "Happy Landlord". It is different from other housing banks. Vacancy time is only 30 days; the owner receives the full amount of rent paid by the tenant; and rent is paid in advance, by season. What are the specialties? According to Xinzun, the landlord can easily finish the registration in the agency. Just bring all your legal certification and sign a contract with the agency. Show the broker your apartment; leave them 30 days as a transition period and everything is set. Whether your house is rented out or not, you just go to the nearest China Construction Bank to collect your seasonal rent. Of course, you do not have to worry about the housecleaning and maintenance.

### Little benefits, many clients

It is generally agreed that 30 days vacancy for a whole year is quite normal. Other housing banks set the vacancy time at 50-60 days, which is a relatively long period. Xinzun does not do so, as their target is to get more clients. They know that the number of clients is a deci-

sive factor in a company's development.

### No price difference, both sides can talk directly

In order to assure the maximum income for owners, Xinzun organizes a meeting between the two sides to ensure a transparent operation. The agency would ask the house owner to give a minimum price and an expected price. With these in mind, brokers will hold negotiations with prospective tenant.

### The agency prepays the rent by season

Owners get paid every season, in advance. This is different from other housing banks, which only pay the owner by month. Same charge. The agency gets one month's rent from the tenement as their sole benefit.

"Xinzun has set a good example for the housing banks," says Wan, a broker for Beijing Real Estate Exchange Center, a state-owned agency, "however, we can not so easily change our mode of operation, as we are a state-owned agency".

Duan Qianqian, manager of the public relations department of 5i5j, a well-known housing agency in Beijing says that Xinzun's attempt won't affect 5i5j's housing bank. "Most clients come to 5i5j for its famous brand", said Duan.

## Why are you staying at this hotel?

Target: China World Hotel

When: 14:00-17:00, Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup>

Hotel Detective: Wang Dandan

This column, "Guest Quiz" aims at collecting comments about hotels from the guests staying there. Each week Beijing Today "Hotel Detectives" will hold random interviews in the lobbies of various city hotels.

### Chen Lin, Singapore

The food and beverage department is the largest in Beijing. I do not have to go elsewhere to taste different food. They are trying to cater to people's needs. Whenever I dine here, it is a kind of lifestyle that is incorporated with culture, with clothes and food. It is not simply eating.

### James Cooper, Britain

The brand name. I strongly trust the hotel with great name and Shangri-la group is one of them. Of course, I also take location into consideration. Here is convenient, and good for business with good commercial environment. However, some rooms need renovating.

### Paul Edgar, America

I am a bit familiar with hotels and I know this one is among the best in Asia. Location of the hotel is

## Guest Quiz

### Tony Li, Hongkong

As I am an IT pilot, I pay more attention to the exhibition halls hotels can offer. Here they provide a great hall with a capacity of about 2,000 people, together with advanced equipment. It is located in the commercial center of Chaoyang district, and I do not have to spend much time explaining to our clients the location. I can book a room from anywhere, thus saving a lot of time.

### Edman Sega, Singapore

I know in the lobby here is hiding one of the top creative hair designers of Beijing. I do not like to spend much time wandering around to look for a top level beauty salon or hair salon. Here I can find everything I want. When I come to Beijing on a business tour from Shanghai, I would choose to stay here to have easy access to the designer.

## Flat Growth Predicted for Office Rentals

By Wang Dandan

Cushman & Wakefield has significantly revised downward its growth projections for prime office rents in Beijing. Growth in regional markets is now expected to be flat or even trend into negative territory this year.

Michael Thompson, CEO of Cushman & Wakefield Asia says, "The rapid turnaround in worldwide economic conditions since the end of last year has considerably weakened office space demand in Beijing." Major office markets are now expected to pose slower growth or show some decline this year.

In Beijing, Donald Han, managing director of Cushman & Wakefield, is predicting flat growth in prime office rents this year.

The tight supply situation and reasonably stable economic outlook

## Beijing Office

should keep rents relatively flat this year.

Asian real estate markets generally benefited from robust economic conditions and the dot com boom in the first half of 2000, which led to a bullish run in office rents. For example, prime effective rents in Beijing appreciated by 60% and 30%. Beijing also saw vacancies reduce significantly during the year.

Based on the expectation that regional economic conditions would be sustained, office rents were originally projected in Dec. 2000 to continue their upward trend. It was predicted that most major markets would see some rental growth of up to 25% in 2001.

"HOUSING" welcome your feedback: What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? What can we help you with? Our E-mail: jianrong@ynet.com Tel: 65902522 Fax: 65902525



## Movies &amp; Music

**New Poems Recital & Pop Music Concert** Wang Guozhen (汪国真) is a famous poet who hasn't published any new work for several years. On this occasion we can appreciate his poems with pop music. Where: National Library Concert Hall (国图), 33 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian District. When: July 29, 7:30pm. Admission: 60-380 yuan. Tel: 68485462

**Stairway to Music 2001 Music Camp** Performed by Peiyang Symphony Orchestra, China Opera and Dance Traditional Music Ensemble, Sound of Spring Chorus and A Choral Kaleidoscope English Concert Singers Baroque Chamber Chorus, Conductors: Roy Wales, Wu Lingfen. Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall. When: July 27, 7:30-July 28-29, 2pm; August 1, 7:30pm. Tel: 65598285

**Shunza (顺子) Concert** She is a very famous Taiwan singer. When: July 27, Banana. August 3, Hard Rock Cafe, 65906688-2571.

**Asker & Hui Lang Bands Fans Meeting** A famous rock & roll band signed to Xi Yang Yang Company (喜洋洋公司). Asker, from Xinjiang, belongs to the Uyghur minority nationality. He has released 2 CDs and performed in Japan and Europe. When: Friday, July 27, 9pm. Where: Get Lucky Bar

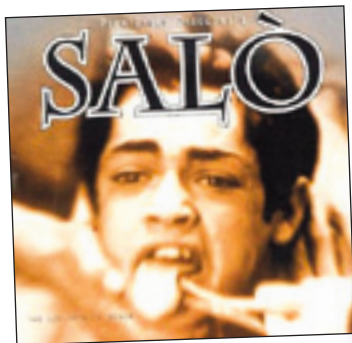
**Meng Records (猛唱片) Music Festival** Chen Shi (Stale Corpse) and other bands, like Duo Yuan Su (Multiple Elements) and An Shi (Hint). This

will show the power of Chinese new underground bands. when: Saturday, July 28, 9pm. Where: Get Lucky Bar, Taiyanggong, east of the south gate of the University of International Business and Economics, near Taiyang Market. Admission: 30 yuan, 20 yuan for students (including one beverage). Tel: 664299109

**Enrica Bacchia From Italy** She is from Italy, and will perform jazz, latin jazz & blues. Where: Big Easy, east of the Rock & Roll. Tel: 65086776

**American Movie: Interiors** Director: Woody Allen. 1978, 93 minutes. Where: Sculpting In Time, 45 Chengfujie, Haidian District. When: July 31, August 2, 7pm. Admission: free with a drink purchase. Tel: 62521746

**Italian Movie by Pier Paolo Pasolini** The Canterbury Tales (坎特伯雷故事集), 1971; Salo, or the 120 Days of Sodom (萨罗/索多玛120天). Where: Box Cafe, 5 Xiwangzhuang Xiaoqu, opposite Tsinghua Tongfang Mansion. When: Saturday, July 28, 7:30pm. Admission: 5 yuan. Tel: 62791280.



## Activities &amp; Sport

**The Great Brawl of China** Evander Holyfield and John Ruiz. A rare opportunity for boxing aficionados living in China to witness the intensity of a professional heavyweight boxing match. Where: Capital Gymnasium (首都), corner Baishiqiao Lu and Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xizhimenwai Dajie, west of the zoo. When: August 5, 9pm. Admission: 332-8300 yuan. Tel: 65514345

**Tsunami Summer Beach Party** Postponed to this Saturday because of bad weather. **Full Moon Party** at the City Seaview Waterpark (城市海景水上乐园). Bands, including Mai tian Shou Wang Zhe "Catcher in rye" and Di Xia Ying Er "Underground Baby", will perform, delicious food will be provided. Bus service from Havana Cafe about 5pm-5:30pm. When: Saturday, August 4, from 6pm. Where: Capital Airport Fulu Road, Chaoyang District (about 6km north of Dashanzi Huandao (大山子环岛), look for Hippo signs). Admission: 60 yuan. Tel: 84310885.



**Kerry Sports center** Many activities over summer. Saturday, July 28th, Bungee

Jumping at Chaoyang Park; August 2-30th, Closed badminton championships (Men's, Ladies' & Juniors); August 2-30th, closed snooker championships. Tel: 65618833-6465.



Also 'Summer Getaways' with WildChina.com. Trips include pilgrimage to Yunan's Mt. Kawagebo; Qinghai's Yushu Horse Festival; Mogolia's South Gobi Desert and Xinjiang & Dunhuang" Spirit of the Silk Road". Tel: 65287783

**Marathon Registering** Scheduled for October 14th, 8:30am, an international, annual marathon. You can register online, for \$ 60. Tel: CITS 66011122-6156, www.cits.net/cits30.htmhas

## Restaurants &amp; Bars

**New Concept Korean Food** Here you can enjoy the great harmony of traditional Korean food and modern Korean fashion. The restaurant has especially invited a South Korean chef. Korean Imperial Banquet Set: 268 yuan / per person; Korean Instant-boiled Beef: 88 yuan / per person. Everyday lunch set served priced at 35-68 yuan. Where: 22 Jinguomenwai Dajie, 1F of Scitech Club, Scitech A-rang Korean Restaurant, Chaoyang District. Time: now. Tel: 65122288 ext. 32708

**Roma Di Notte Bar & Restaurant** From July 25 to August 25, if you buy one pizza, you can get one free. Add: 1F, Tian He Building (天河大厦), A7 Gontixilu, Chaoyang District. Tel: 65523566/3599

**Downtown Cafe** They have a special drink called "Shut Up" and it's a really good place to dine. Add: 100 meters south to City Hotel (城市宾馆). Open: 9:30am- 1:30am. Tel: 65073407

## Exhibitions



**Earth and Poem** Traditional colored ink paintings by Tsinghua University professor, Liu Yongming. His works depict natural scenery and will be appreciated by those interested in traditional Chinese culture.

Where: Huang Shi Cheng Gallery (皇史成画廊), 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District. When: July 28-August 6. Admission: free. Tel: 65289103

By Jiao Pei, Li Dan

We are glad to receive your feedback. You can email us at [bjtodayinfo@ynet.com](mailto:bjtodayinfo@ynet.com) or call 65902522

## Weather

## WEEKEND

Saturday, 28 July  
Showers to clear  
Max: 34C. Min: 24C.

Sunday, 29 July  
Clear to overcast, showers  
Max: 31C. Min: 21C.

## NEXT WEEK

Monday, 30 July  
Clear  
Max: 34C. Min: 24C.

Tuesday, 31 July  
Clear  
Max: 35C. Min: 24C.



Wednesday, 1 August  
Clear to cloudy  
Max: 35C. Min: 25C.



Thursday, 2 August  
Clear to cloudy  
Max: 34C. Min: 24C.



Friday, 3 August  
Clear to overcast  
Max: 33C. Min: 25C.



Saturday, July 28th  
Showers, easy for dispersion of suspended particles.

Sunday, July 29th  
Showers, Suspended particles easily dispersed.

## Performances

**Typical Broadway Dances and Singing Performances** Passionate Broadway dancing and singing performances and Paris' classical gallery show will bring you into a dream place of art treasures. Where: 99 Jianguolu, Chaoyang District, 2F and 3F of Zhongfu Mansion (中服大厦). Time: 6pm-9:30pm. Tel: 65816688

**Opera La Traviata** (茶花女) To commemorate the 100th anniversary of death of the great Italian composer Verdi, the Central Opera will perform La Traviata. Conductor: Richard Capasso. Stage design: Gao Guangjian (who worked on Zhang Yimou's Turandot). When: July 27-30, 7:30pm. Admission: 80-500 yuan. **Aladdin** (阿拉丁) One of the most famous stories in the 1,001 Arabian Nights. It is organized by the Long Beach Ballet



Company. When: August 3, 4, 7:30pm. Admission: 80-580 yuan. Where: Poly Theater, Dongzhimen Nandajie, Dongcheng District. Tel: 65001188-5127

**Rich Dad, Poor Dad** The secret of "How to get Rich" revealed at last! All that stands between you and enlightenment is just the price of one ticket. Where: China Youth Mini Art Theater (青艺剧场), 71 Santiao, Beijing, Dongdan, Dongcheng District. When: July 25-August 6, 7:30pm. Tel: 65596575

**Beijing Opera** Shi Yu Zhuo, Tiao Hua Che, Shi Zi Lou, Qiu Jiang, Where: Huguang Huiguan, 3 Hufangqiao Lu (虎坊桥路), Xuanwu District. When: July 27-August 2, 7:30pm. Admission: 100-180 yuan, 380, 200 yuan box. Tel: 63518284

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29 Dongzhong jie,  
Dongcheng District  
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6856.9388

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朝阳区团结湖北口 3 号楼  
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6852.4003

## Bianyifang Roast Duck Restaurant

## 便宜坊

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崇文区崇文门大街甲 2 号  
11:00-14:00, 17:00-21:30  
Tel: 6712.0505

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Add: 1 Gu Cheng Nan Lu Shijingshan District

(100 meters in west from Gu Cheng metro station)

电话: (010) 68843388-718/620 (详见店内海报)

地址: 石景山区古城南路 1 号 (地铁古城站西 100 米)

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## 东来顺

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Da jie, Dongcheng District  
东城区王府井大街 新东安商场 5 层  
11:00-14:00, 17:00-21:30  
6528.0932

## Fan Shi Gang

## 饭是纲

140 Andingdajie, Dongcheng District  
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9:00-23:00  
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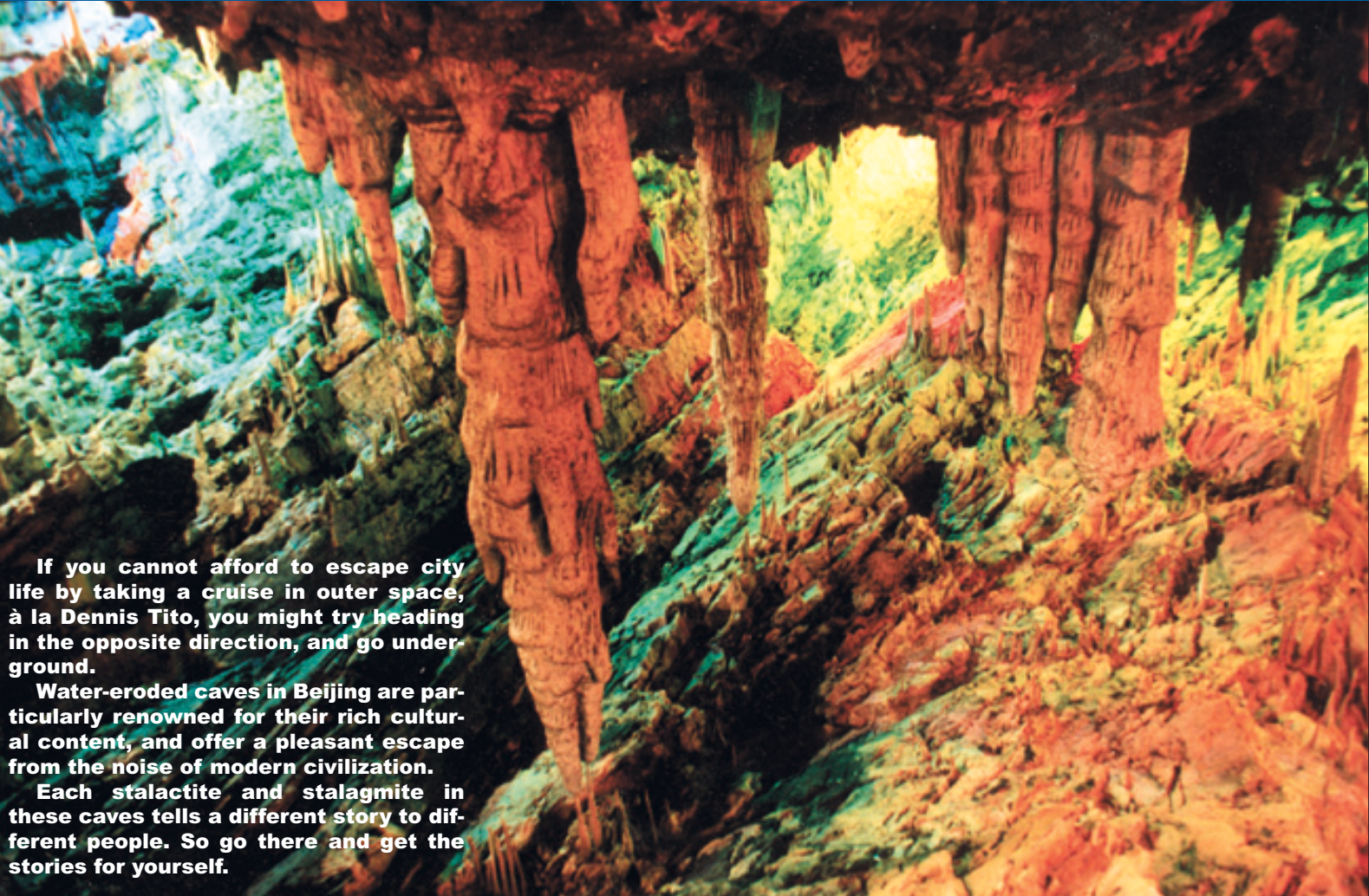
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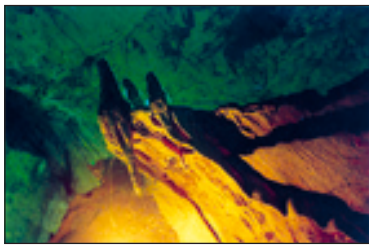


If you cannot afford to escape city life by taking a cruise in outer space, à la Dennis Tito, you might try heading in the opposite direction, and go underground.

Water-eroded caves in Beijing are particularly renowned for their rich cultural content, and offer a pleasant escape from the noise of modern civilization.

Each stalactite and stalagmite in these caves tells a different story to different people. So go there and get the stories for yourself.

# Going Underground



by Jiang Zhong / Thomas Kloubert

## Jingdong Grand Cave

Chinese people always try to integrate caves and the naturally occurring features within them with human culture. Stalactites and stalagmites are given names related to traditional Chinese myths and legends. In Jingdong Grand Cave there are many scenic spots with names such as Guanyin Buddhist Does the Swallow a Favor, Penglai Fairyland and Granted Blessing by the God of Long life. More than 30 scenic spots with such wondrous names are included in the grand cave. However, don't worry that you might be seen as lacking in imagination just because you can't quite get the connection between the name of such a scenic spot, and its actual appearance. You can always make up your own names!

Following the tour guide into the cave, the whole world seemed to become quiet as the door was closed behind us. The temperature dropped sharply, to around 18 centigrade, and everyone hurriedly pulled out his or her extra pullover, brought along specially.

We walked through the first 40-meter-long bomb shelter-like passage to the first scenic spot, named Scripture Written by Dragons. It is much like the Nine-Dragon Wall of Beihai Park. Some parts of the dragons are separate from the high-relief wall of the cave. Each dragon is clearly defined and in an exaggerated pose, as if about to fly up into the sky. However, as for the scriptures, I couldn't find even one single Chinese character. Forget it!

A large quantity of stalactites leaning to the ground is one of the more spectacular features of the cave. This is the result of the movement of the earth's crust. It is really quite a stunning sight, hundreds of stalactites leaning in the same direction, forming the same angle with the ground.

The cave is believed to have stood there for at least 1,500,000,000 years, however there are still many stalactites in their infancy. They are growing, but very slowly. They will add one centimeter to their length every forty to one hundred years. For this reason, we can call it an old cave in development.

Steps have been built, but they are narrow, steep, wet and slippery. Furthermore, in some parts, the walls close in overhead and everyone has walk bent over almost double.

Many stalagmites resemble Chinese pagodas in shape. You can see the octagonal eaves, the beautiful top ornaments and the solid pedestals.

There is a stone goat standing in a small cave in the wall. You don't need to use your imagination too much to distinguish the goat's whiskers and tail. It was looking into the air while lifting its right front leg, and its mouth was open slightly, as if in mid 'baa'.

At the 'Sky was Propped Up by a Pillar', a stalactite and a stalagmite joined with each other to form a round and glazed pillar. The guide told me that stalactites



and stalagmites in very old caves sometimes join each other to form a pillar, but seldom with such a uniform diameter as this one.

Narrow Escape from the Tiger's Mouth is also quite an attractive scene. A big tiger head, its mouth wide-open, has stalactites and stalagmites for teeth. Slim stalagmites growing on the upper surface of the rock were like the tiger's whiskers.

When we came to a big chamber, the colorful lights disappeared and only small bulbs emitting a dim light were supplied. There are five hundred meters of less developed caves left ahead, where tourists can get an idea of how the cave came into being and how great the force of the nature is. I enjoyed walking through this part, because it was more like an adventure. There are many beautiful sights, including the highest and lowest point. The highest point of the cave is about 25 meters above sea level, and the lowest 5 meters beneath it. The temperature at the lowest point was only 5 centigrade, however the exercise had warmed us up, and we didn't feel the cold.

There was a water passage of 150 meters before we came to the end of the cave, and we were glad of the opportunity to recover our energy while completing the journey by boat. The boatman

didn't use oars to propel the boat. Instead he pulled us along using an iron line strung along the wall to the exit of the cave.

## An Alternative View

The designers want to change the cave as much as possible for the purpose of appealing to the tourists. They use colorful lights in the caves and give poetic names to stalactites and stalagmites, however, their efforts sometimes have a rather unintended effect.

The caves are lit up much like a disco in fluorescent pink, green, and blue, which in itself is a sight to see. Pretty girls dressed up as ushers take you along in small groups and give a non-stop recital about the magnificent wonders on either side. Particular attention is placed on stalactites or stalagmites or any other such formation that can be said to resemble something or someone from Chinese literature or mythology. Beautifully aesthetic Chinese names are rendered into perplexing, oftentimes hilarious or completely mind-boggling English translations. Upon entering the first cavern one is greeted by a sign proclaiming a boulder to be a 'Godish Beast Welcoming Guest' followed by instructions to 'Scrape the bones to cure wounds on the arms' underneath a 'Mess of Clouds Flying'. All this makes perfect sense in the original Chinese. There is a certain feeling of achievement in being able to couple a particular formation to the name inscribed. At the 'Penglai Fairyland' for example, the fairies, appropriately lit in pink, will be pointed out to you sitting on half a dozen sharp stalagmites. At another point your friendly guide will stand smiling beneath a sign which confirms your worst fears, it simply reads: 'Led by Goat'!

**Where:** east of Heidouyucun(黑豆峪村), Pinggu County. 90 kilometers from downtown Beijing.

**How to get there:** Bus 918 from Dongzhimen or drive along the Badaling Expressway and change to Jingshun Road for Pinggu County. Follow the signs and you will have no difficulty getting there.

**Admittance:** 38 yuan per person. 5 yuan per person for final boat journey.

**Open:** 8am-5pm  
**Tel:** 6097 1708, 6097 1899  
No English service  
**Facilities:**

This is a well-developed scenic spot. Entertainment facilities include carting, a swimming pool, fishing park and armored car rides (extra 10 yuan per person).

## Other Scenic Spots Near Jingdong Cave

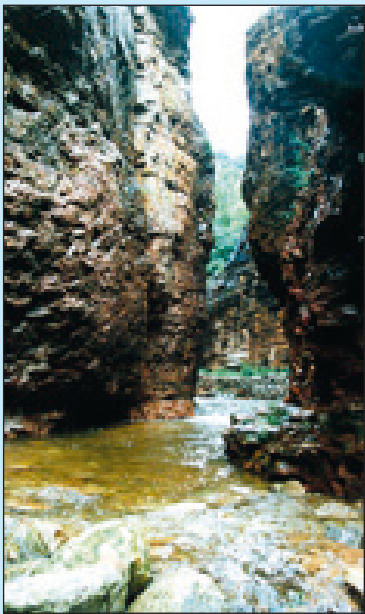
**Hudongshui Scenic Spot** (湖洞水)

Hudongshui is 5 kilometers northeast of the main cave. It is located in a 5- kilometer-long canyon. The scenic spot gets its name from the beautiful lakes, strange caves and eternal running brooks there. The main sights are Heaven Steps (800 steps), Sanniang Cave and Jiangjun Cave.

**Facilities:** Yougu Restaurant, hotel, conference room and traditional Chinese style summer resort.



**How to get there:** Take bus 918 from Dongzhimen to Pinggu County and change to bus 8  
**Tel:** 6098 8154, 6098 9127  
**Feilonggu Scenic Spot** (飞龙谷)



This scenic spot is 6 kilometers north of the Jingdong cave. It is known as the Zhangjiatie of North China

It is actually an 8-kilometer-long valley. The highest mountain in the spot is 1,253 meters above sea level; this is also the highest mountain in Pinggu County. The average temperature in the valley is 3-5 centigrade lower than that of Beijing. A fruit-picking festival is held from August 18-October 28 each year.

**How to get there:** Take bus 918 from Dongzhimen to Pinggu County and change to bus 8  
**Tel:** 6098 8154, 6098 9127

## Shihua Cave(石花洞)

Shihua Cave is a 7-level water-eroded cave. It is named for the various beautiful stone flowers scattered within it. The cave is about 3,000 meters long and has an area of 18,000 m². Only the first three levels have been opened to tourists. In this section, there are twenty key scenic regions, more than 150 individual scenic spots, twelve big chambers and sixteen small chambers.

Yaochishilian (Stone Lotus Flower in the Pool of the Heaven) is one of the most famous sights of the cave. It has a history of more than 32,000 years. Longgongshuqin (Harp in the Palace of the Dragon King) is the largest stone curtain ever found in China. It is 18 meters long and 10 meters high, featuring more than 500 layers. The cave is delicate in structure, colorful in sights and comprehensive in collection of deposit. It is also of great value for scientific research.

Shihua Cave is one of the four most important water-eroded caves in China. It was first discovered by Master Yuanguang in 1446 and given the name Qianzhen Cave. In 1978 the name was changed as Shihua Cave, and after a 9-year development it was opened to public in 1987.

**Where:** Nancheyingcun(南车营村), Hebei County, Fangshan District, Beijing

**How to get there:** Take tourism bus 7 from Qianmen or Fuchengmen. The subsidiary line of bus 917 from Tianqiao is another option.

**By car:** Take the Jingshi Expressway at Liuliqiao, take the exit for Yanshan in Fangshan District, and follow the signs.

**Facilities:** Accommodation and restaurants are available.  
**Admittance:** 42 yuan per person  
**Open:** 8am-5:30pm  
**Tel:** 6031 2170

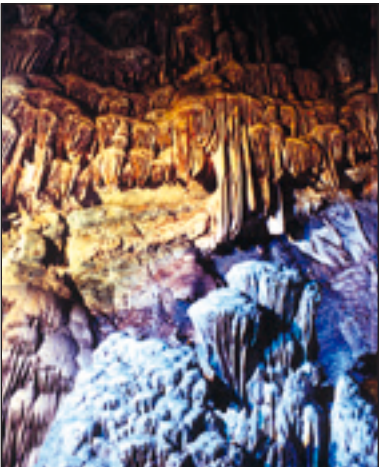


Photo by Chang Keyong

## Yinhu Cave(银狐洞)

Yinhu Cave is actually a large group of water-eroded caves. It gets its name from an unusual 2-meter-high black fox-like crystal of calcite found in it. The snow-white fur of the fox is well imitated by the crystal; you cannot help touching it when you stand in front of it. The developed part of the cave is about 3,000 meters long, and features the usual distinctively shaped stalactites, stalagmites and crystals. The most important sights include Shy Jade Rabbit and Hedgehog in the Cage.

There is a large underground lake also in the cave. The water of the lake is rich in trace elements and tourists can boat on it all year round.

**Where:** Fozizhuangxiang(佛子庄乡), Fangshan District, Beijing; 60 kilometers from downtown.

**How to get there:** Take Yinhu Cave special line bus 917 from Tianqiao and get off at Yinhu Cave

**By car:** Take the Jingshi Expressway at Liuliqiao, take Yancun exit and drive to Fozizhuangxiang

**Facilities:** good accommodation and restaurants  
**Admittance:** 26 yuan per person, extra 15 yuan for boating on the lake.  
**Open:** 8am - 6pm  
**Tel:** 6036 3236



Photo by Chang Keyong

## Yunshui Cave(云水洞)

Yunshui Cave is the most famous of the nine caves in Shangfang Mountain. It is 613 meters long, featuring seven grand chambers and 108 scenic spots. Yunshui Cave has the largest stalagmite in China, 37 meters high.

Shangfang Mountain is famous for its strange formations, dense forests, deep caves and ancient temples. The biggest forest park in north China is located here too. The Doushuai Temple built in the early Tang dynasty and many other pagodas and temples are well preserved. 262 stone steps give access to these ancient buildings.

**Where:** Yuegezhuangxiang(岳各庄乡), Fangshan District, Beijing

**How to get there:** Take bus 917 from Tianqiao or Liuliqiao, get off at Fangshan and take a mini bus to Yuegezhuangxiang

**Admittance:** 40 yuan per person  
**Open:** 8am-8pm  
**We would like to share your outdoor experiences and adventures. If you have any bright ideas for great days out around Beijing, we'd love to hear from you. Please send any ideas, photos, itineraries to us.**

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